

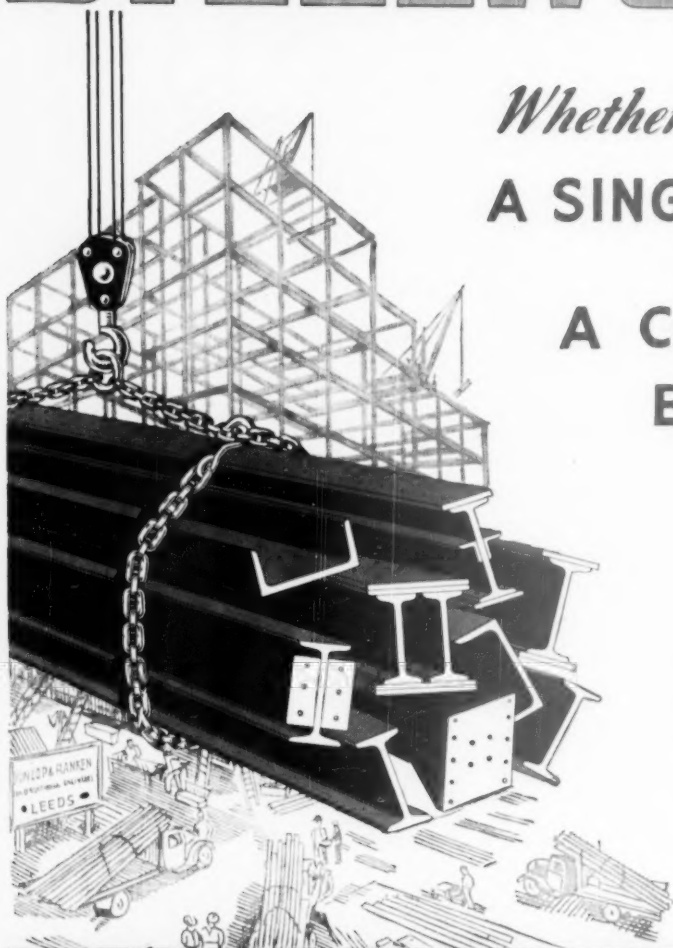
THE
ARCHITECT
& BUILDING NEWS

In this issue

- NEMATOLOGY LABORATORY, ROTHAMSTED
- ALEXANDER COURT, WANDSWORTH
- HOUSING FOR LUTON R.D.C.

SEPTEMBER 15, 1950 • VOL 198 • NO 4265 • ONE SHILLING WEEKLY

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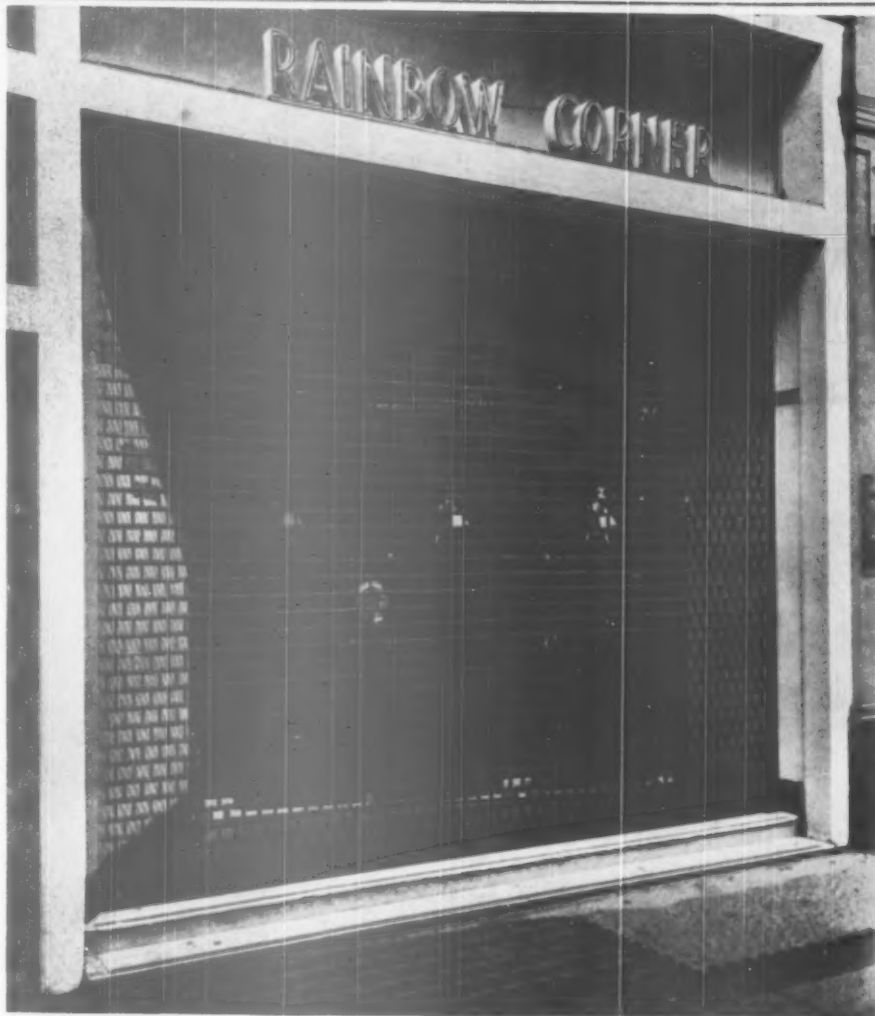
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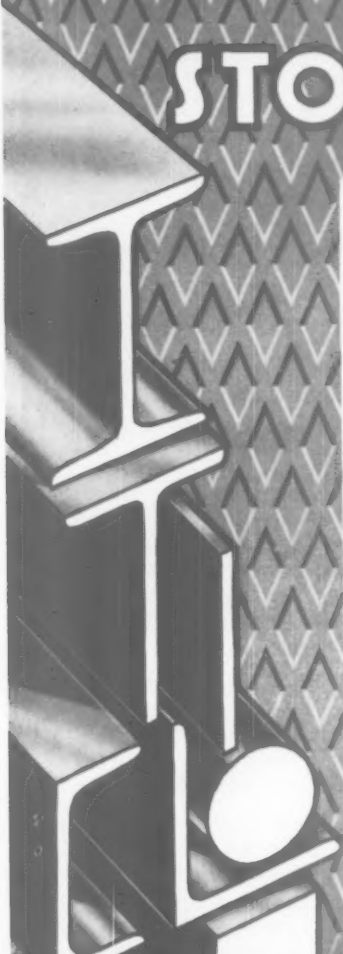
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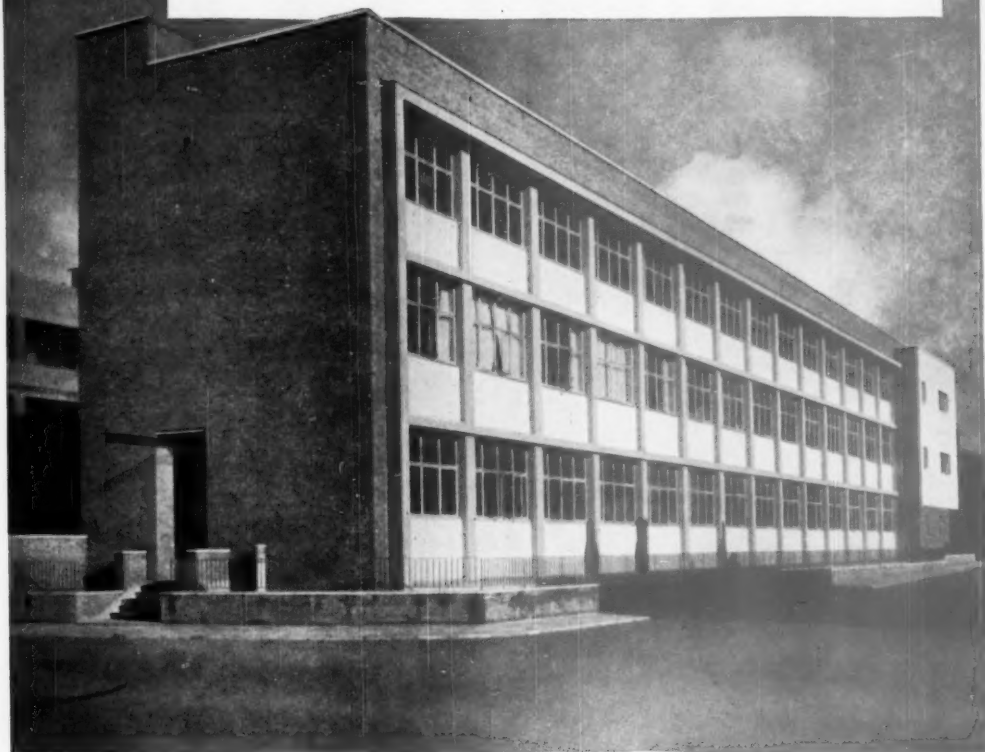
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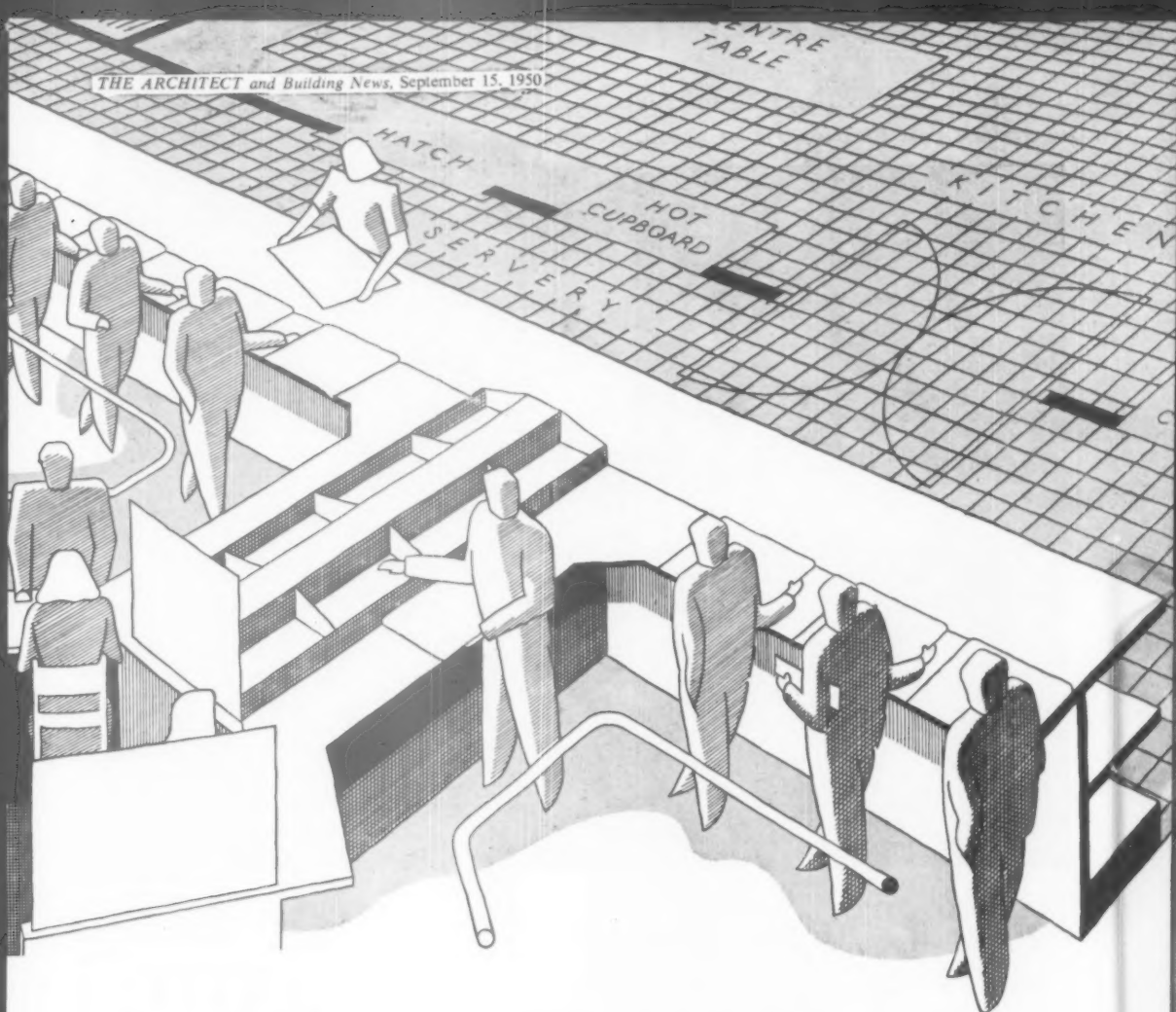
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Planning for Industrial Catering

WHILST THE PLANNING of every kitchen or canteen will vary according to individual circumstances, there are many essential data, including dimensions, which are common to any such scheme. It is of great value, too, if the planner can have access to the knowledge which has been accumulated from past experience of similar problems.

The Gas Industry has collated a great deal of information on the subject of industrial catering. For instance, planning requirements to which consideration must be given; schedules of equipment required to produce a given number of meals in a given time; typical plans illustrating the possibilities of combining various types of equipment; and examples of kitchens which have been designed and installed to suit individual sites and conditions. This information is freely available to architects, and others in responsible positions, who are concerned with the planning and equipment of industrial kitchens and canteens.

The collation of this kind of information is one of many activities by which The Gas Council seeks to increase the efficiency of gas services for cooking, hot water, space heating and refrigeration. In all cases where the use of gas is envisaged, early consultation with the Gas Undertaking is advisable.

GAS

a corridor in the Clarkson Junior School, Norwich

ARCHITECT: LEONARD G. HANNAFORD, F.R.I.B.A.



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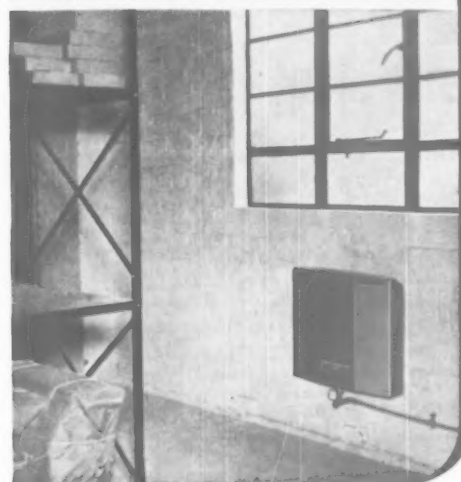
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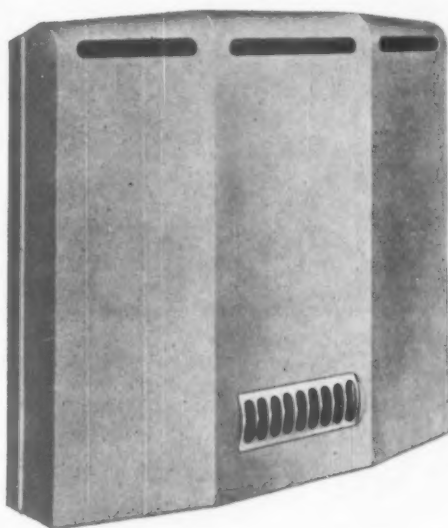
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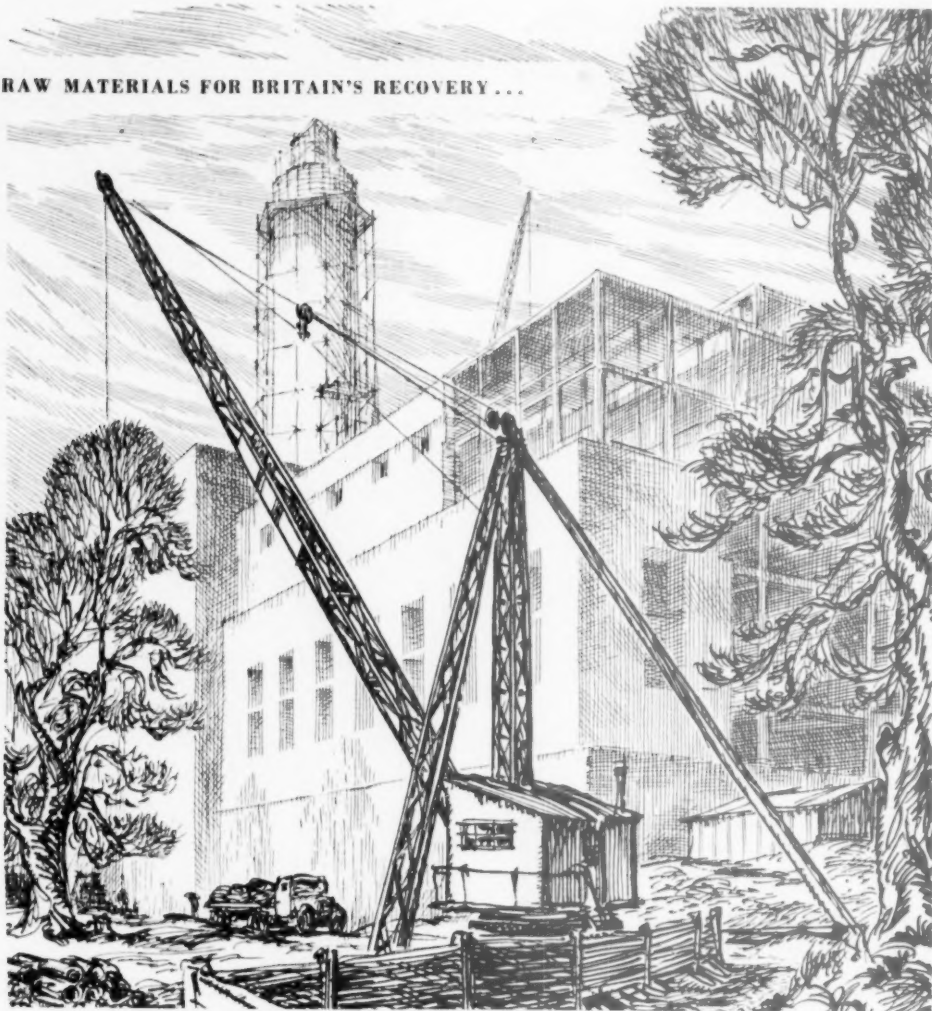
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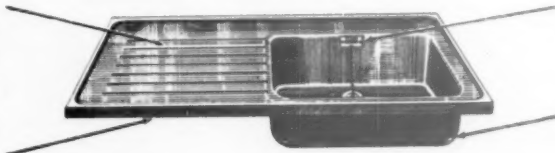
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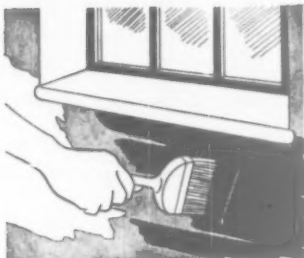


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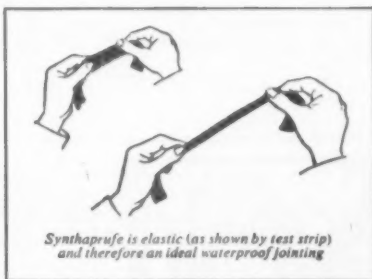


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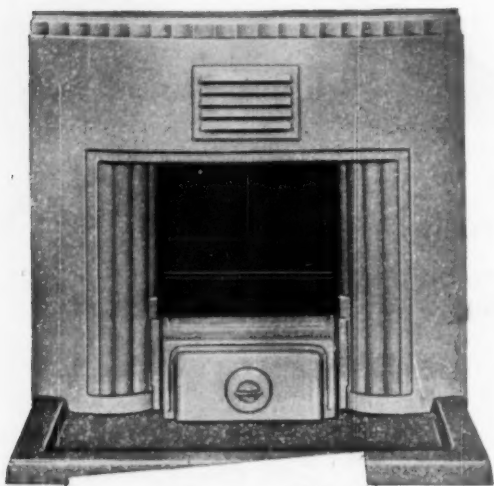
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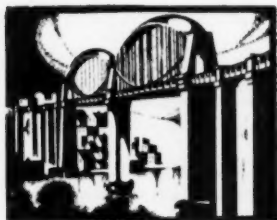
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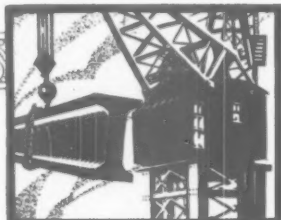
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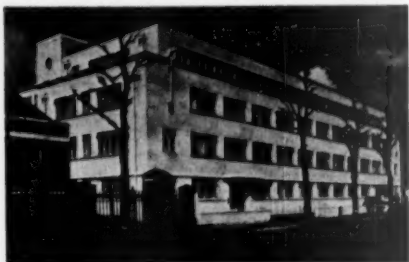
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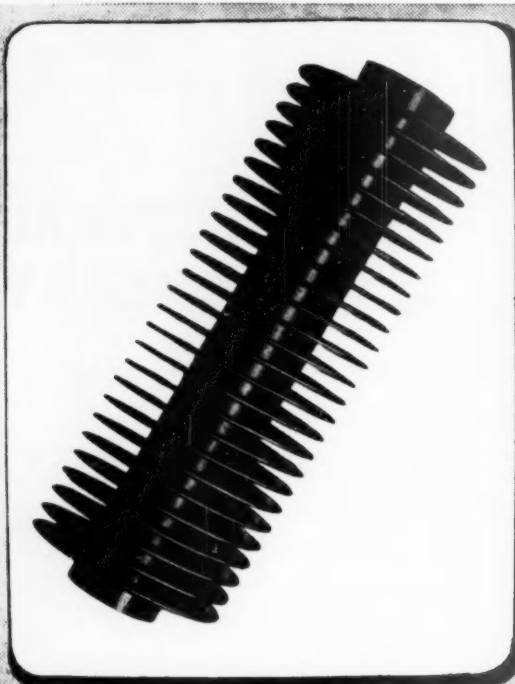
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THE EFFICIENCY OF BUILDING

LAST week, at the British Association, Dr. Bronowski returned from the Research Establishment of the National Coal Board to give a lecture about some of the problems of the time he spent with the Ministry of Works.

He gave many facts and figures, and, being a scientist, he saw that they added up and made good answers, at any rate so far as the initial premisses were concerned. He would seem justified in his facts and figures and in his conclusions if only his past experience is so and so. It is, however, the experience of the specialist-investigator in the laboratory rather than that of the designer or of the practical builder, on the site.

We are not amongst those who think that theory and science are all right but they cannot help building—that being, of course, a practical job of work. Each side has its place and must help the other. What the scientific approach can do—and it can be a rod-in-pickle for a merely practical industry—is to remind us of the out-of-dateness of the methods we use. Dr. Bronowski's facts and figures about men and materials, about costs and horse-power in relation to housing were just devastating; in fact, we thought his lecture provided just that chapter missing from the recent Working Party's Report.

After pointing out that the cost of the materials required for the average house was nearly twice that of the labour—while the plant used cost only 1/13 that of the labour, he concluded that building is not only old-fashioned, but is practically without assistance from horse-power and, indeed, merely a semi-skilled and mostly un-skilled industry. He showed that while the dead weight of materials in a house is about 130 tons, the weight actually exceeds 630 tons of which the main part is *handled* by human excavators, concretors, bricklayers and general labourers, all virtually without mechanical aids, either on site or in the shop. The average h.p. used per man through-

out the manufacturing firms of this country is about 2.5. The building industry uses only 0.5 per man.

Houses, our lecturer said, are, therefore, and for certain other reasons, too costly. The ratio of cost of materials to labour in a brick house has risen in the last forty years from less than 1.5 to 1 up to its present figure of nearly 2 to 1. Dr. Bronowski draws the parallel of the motor car: in 1900 a house and a medium-sized motor car each cost about £300; in the mid-1930's the house had gone up 50 per cent. and the car down as much. To-day there is a greater disparity (if purchase tax is excluded)—"We are not subsidising cars, we are subsidising houses. We have never learned the lesson of the motor car industry, that it is possible to carry the family safely in something less than a tank".

The lecturer argues from all this that renewed efforts should be made to find a solution of the housing problem by a reconsideration of the non-traditional house. In the past these have been only half successful and too costly because the "non-tradition" only concerned itself with the carcass and not with the finishings and the inside of the house—and these take up about 1/3 of the labour-time and include the greater skill and the most costly materials. It is in these latter parts of the whole structure that scientific factory methods and the increase of labour, skilled in the use of horse-power, are now required, to reduce costs and speed up production.

Now there are certain things we cannot quite reconcile about all this; which, while we must agree that the lecturer's facts and that many of his conclusions are sound enough, as far as they go, the question remains, do they go quite far enough? If the new non-traditional houses are to become thin and less solid, then scientists must reconcile us to their own dictum that mass and thickness are the best insulators against noise, rather than composite materials which are expensive, either as materials or

by reason of increased labour required in assembling. Space and not packing is, we seem also to have heard, a cheap commodity.

The chief thing we find missing from Dr. Bronowski's very useful and awakening back-handers is almost any discussion of the present organisation of the building industry and its methods of distribution of materials and components, or, at any rate, any suggestion of solutions. It must be obvious that to increase the speed of production in building and to lower its cost there are problems which must be faced by the scientific and economic planners and organisers as well as by the physical planners and the designers of prefabricated units and non-traditional methods. The latter cannot progress if the industry persists in preferring un-skilled site-work to skilled extra-site work, in hand labour rather than mechanisation; in the present disorganized methods of over-dispersed distribution of materials and in the face of high transport cost. These are matters that are quite often outside anything that the designer or the builder can affect, but are they also outside the powers of the scientist to organize into some better order and system? We do not like suggesting that the scientist has had his say and has not said enough, but it looks a little like it, because the "practical" man seems to stay put.

After all, the motor-car may be very efficient for

moving families about the surface of the earth and in the service of man, but he does not live in it, and the machine-to-live-in is a different sort of proposition, however produced, and in the end the house must be produced by team-work even more comprehensive than that which gives us motor cars (for export!).

The British Council

We have received the Annual Report of the British Council. An interesting account of great and useful activity, world-wide.

Its objects (as far as the arts are concerned): to further "the Fine Arts, Painting, Drawing, Engraving, Sculpture and (in certain aspects) Industrial Design, Crafts, Architecture and Town Planning". The Executive Committee does not seem to have (March, 1950) an architect on it; the "Fine Arts Committee" has no architect on it, and the "Presentation Media Committee" has only one architect on it—Mr. John Summerson; as far as we can otherwise see, the only other advice that the Council wants on Architecture and Town Planning is in Scotland, for the President, R.I.B.A., is a member of the Scottish Panel. Even any "certain aspect" of architecture, as a Fine Art, seems a poor look-out.



Abbotsbury, Dorset. Reproduced from an ink drawing by R. Rosner, A.R.I.B.A.

EVENTS AND COMMENTS

ABNER MILITAIRE

THE only difference, that I can see, between private camping and camping at government expense is that government tents blow down more easily. I will not bother you this week with more views on the weather as your experiences in the recent gale were doubtless even more hair-raising than mine. Before I left my private camp a caravan arrived and parked in the next field, after I left the owner was discovered to be a Winchester architect and reader of the A. & B.N. who penetrated my anonymity and told the children that he had come to the conclusion that I must be Abner from my accurate description of the Welsh weather.

Apart from the weather the military camp is a lovely place with a splendid view inland up two valleys at the end of one of which the vast bulk of Cader Idris can be seen when the rain clears sufficiently. Military operations have been somewhat hampered by the inclemency of the weather but even so most people have enjoyed themselves except for that remarkable Wednesday night when all the large tents including the Mess fell down in a sea of mud.

The town is small and rather depressing even on a fine day, the front is gaunt and inhuman, the architecture is varied and there are many fine examples of the non-conformist-or-bust style.

In our vain search for a pub that stays open after nine-thirty we discovered a remarkable building perched high on a steep hill on the bank of a wide estuary. Built late in the last century the style of the building is said to be Norwegian. The construction is entirely of wood, all of which was, somewhat unnecessarily I should have thought, brought from Norway. I did not actually pull the walls down to see but I was told that the spaces between the studs were filled with slate waste. All internal walls are finished with horizontal planking either painted or waxed. I fear I cannot describe the outside as it was dark when I was there. The general effect is however one of turrets and stained glass, evidently embellishments to the native design added by the Victorian builders. The porch is remarkable for its height. A rustic structure high enough to take a fair sized elephant and howdah, it was, however, recently defeated by a furniture van which became wedged under it. The van was removed with difficulty by letting the air out of the tyres and putting all hands in the back to jump on the springs.

IS YOUR QUESTION REALLY NECESSARY?

ARCHITECTS already snowed under with official and unofficial literature which they cannot possibly read will extend a luke-warm welcome to a new D.S.I.R. Information service called "Unanswered Questions," Bulletin Number 1 of which recently appeared. The valuable services provided by the D.S.I.R. cover research in every conceivable field and so does the new bulletin. It means therefore that conscientious architects must search through it to see whether it includes any questions on building. As far as I can see the first issue does not, but it does include a question which interested me vastly. "Has any work been done since that of Berlese on the Tarsonemid mites?" If you have any unanswered



Edward D. Mills, F.R.I.B.A., F.S.A. A recent photo of the editor of the A. & B.N. Detail Sheets in his new office. See "Hundredth Detail Sheet" below.

questions send them to D.S.I.R. Intelligence, 1 Charles House, 5-11 Regent Street, London, S.W.1.

THE HUNDREDTH DETAIL SHEET

EDWARD MILLS, thirty-five year old Ex-Regent Poly boy scores his century in our series of detail sheets to-day. I find his sheets well produced and easy to understand and if I were the sort of person who tore things out and filed them I should never miss one of them. The following thumbnail sketch comes from an undisclosed source. Mills is an almost perpetual pipe smoker, a teetotaller, does not wear glasses, is reasonably punctual, does not care for formal clothes, likes thick woollen ties, takes photographs, loves cold tea and is a pleasure to work for. He is married and has two children. On to two hundred!

ON ILKLA MOOR BART LICENCE

THE Ilkley War Memorial Committee is in trouble. Wishing to complete additions to the First World War Memorial in time for Remembrance Day this year it started work before a licence was granted because the scheme had the backing of the M.o.H.

The M.O.W. would not grant a licence and the M.O.H. has now told Committee that it has been naughty although no further action is contemplated. This decision has annoyed the Committee and accusing fingers have been pointed at the New British Embassy in Rio. The Festival of Britain and the contribution of £7,500 towards the purchase of a Constable painting, all of which are evidently thought to be of similar importance to the Ilkley Scheme. In the words of one of the Committee the whole thing is "absolute bunk quite incomprehensible." The M.O.H. is also said to have behaved in a "perfectly absurd" way over a football dressing room at Saltaire, but I will not bore you with that.

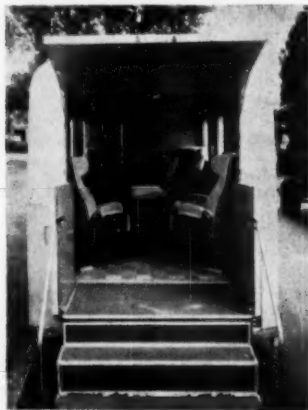
FESTIVAL UNIFORMS

WHEN I was a child I used to design uniforms for my private army. They invariably included plumed helmets, epaulettes and spurs. I am disappointed to hear that uniforms designed for the Festival of Britain staff will have none of these. Their uniform will be dove grey with a green collar. It sounds most serviceable and should make the wearer almost invisible on an average summer day in London. Attendants will wear patrol jackets and supervisors reefer suits with collar and tie. The design for the director-general's uniform has not yet been announced so perhaps there is still hope for the epaulettes and spurs.

I am reminded that at Wembley the attendants wore dirty white plimsolls and were often in need of a good hair-cut. I hope these two points will, as they constantly say in brigade orders here, be obviated.



Messrs. Wall's Sales and Information vehicle



Abner-Wall Correspondence—continued

To the Editor of A. & B.N.

Sir,—Mr. Gyle-Thompson and I have followed with great interest your comments on the Wall's "Temple" trailer, as you have christened it. Your editorial remarks in the issue of September I sum up the subject very neatly and we would not quarrel with them.

May I, however, submit for your attention photographs of a vehicle which has recently been built specially for us and for which we do accept full aesthetic responsibility. This is a Sales and Information Unit. Very briefly it carries tents, selling equipment and a sales team of five to showgrounds and other special occasions. After the equipment has been unloaded, it can rapidly be converted into an elegantly appointed reception room. Panelled walls and photographs are dis-

closed by the raising of protective flaps which then form part of the ceiling; there is a cocktail cabinet (another tavern car touch?), a radio and five aircraft seats.

You ask "Why is it always vanilla?" It is not *always* vanilla, though this is undoubtedly the most popular flavour. Strawberry and coffee ice cream are close runners-up and chocolate also is popular. During the last few years we ourselves have tried more esoteric flavours—notably ginger, cherry and banana—but none of them has been capable, so far, of displacing vanilla from public favour.

Yours, etc.,
for T. Wall & Sons Ltd.,
VINCENT TAYLOR,
Public Relations Officer.

PLANNING IN KENT

SOME time ago I commented on a booklet produced by the County Planning Officer for Kent entitled "Notes for the Guidance of Developers." I have forgotten exactly what I said but I remember that the idea was good but the illustrations left something to be desired. The same Officer has now produced two information sheets on layout and grouping of houses for display in public offices. The purpose of the sheets is "to encourage people to produce visual effects which are likely to please the community as well as themselves." Once more the idea is good but the illustrations are very poor particularly where they deal with "contemporary" architecture.

GASWORKS ARCHITECTURE

MY remarks on gasworks architecture have brought a word of encouragement from a Midland Architect who has done some work for gas companies in the past and who is conscious of the tradition of generally poor architecture which the Gas Boards have taken over. He points to the continent for good examples and in due course I hope the Editor will be able to publish illustrations of gas works in Europe and elsewhere. Meanwhile we await a pronouncement on architectural policy from the Gas Board.

HOUSING AT THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION

DR. BRONOWSKI, speaking in the engineering section of the recent meeting of the British Association, made two proposals for increasing the output of houses. First that the problem of planning the house should be considered afresh without references to traditional forms, and secondly, that as much work as possible on the site should be done by specialist firms. (I presume he means on the American system of sub-contracts.) Dr. Bronowski also criticised modern concrete houses because they tried to look like the traditional forms and because they were much too strong for the job they had to do. In his view this was partly due to our out of date building bye-laws. There is nothing particularly new in these suggestions or criticisms; what we want to see is a design for a house based on these theories.

THE SPACIOUS DAYS

THE list of tolls for the Portmadoc causeway begins . . . "For every horse or other beast of draught drawing any Coach, Sociable, Berlin, Landau, Chariot, Vis-a-Vis, Chaise, Calash, Chaise-Marine, Curricule, Chair, Jig, Whisky, Caravan, Hearse, Litter, Wagon, Wain, Cart, Dray or carriage, any sum not exceeding one shilling . . ."

ABNER

NEWS OF THE WEEK

Housing Accomodation

Opening the one thousandth post-war house provided by Cymbran Urgan District Council, Mr. Aneurin Bevan, emphasised that local authorities could speed the solution of the housing problem by varying their programmes to cater for families of different sizes and so enable exchanges to be made.

It did not seem yet to be realised, he said, that if it were ideally possible to distribute the houses we have among the population as a whole, we should not need many more houses in terms of total accommodation.

Nobody grumbled because, with rising housing standards, every family insisted on its own accommodation, but if we were to provide a separate dwelling for every family in the country it would be the first time it had ever been done in the history of man.

Paddington Open Space Decision

The Minister of Town and Country Planning has dismissed the appeal by Paddington Metropolitan Borough Council against the refusal of the London County Council to permit the development of a site at Warwick Avenue, Paddington, for housing purposes, on the grounds that it ought to be kept for an open space.

L.C.C. Housing: Formation of a Development Group

A Development Group has been established in the new Housing Division of the Architect's Department of the London County Council.

The group will investigate and report on planning and design, methods of construction, materials and costs of multi-storeyed housing. They are particularly interested in the standardisation and prefabrication of components, both structural and non-structural, with a view to reducing costs, speeding up erection times and improving amenities.

Manufacturers and firms who are interested in these problems are asked to write to the Architect to the London County Council (AR/HO), The County Hall, S.E.1.

Farm Buildings Conference

On the day following the opening of the Farm Buildings Advisory Conference by the Minister of Agriculture, Mr. Tom Williams, at York on October 10, the members will visit farms around York to study the farm buildings.

Building Documentation Conference in Paris

On October 23-28, 1950, the first general assembly of the International Council for Building Documentation will meet in Paris at the invitation of the French Government. Subjects for discussion will be: Exchange of abstracts and information; terminology; classification, format and layout of publications; data sheets; the needs of the users of information.

The United Kingdom delegation and observers will be nominated by the British Building Documentation Committee (Secretariat: Ministry of Works Library, Lambeth Bridge House, London, S.E.1) from whom further particulars may be obtained.

It is hoped to send a delegation representative of all sides of the Industry.

The Queen buys a gate

Her Majesty the Queen on September 4 visited the Loan Exhibition of Decorative Art in Flowers and Fruit in the Signet Library, Edinburgh. She so much admired a garden gate in hand-forged wrought iron that she bought it for Balmoral Castle. The gate was made and designed by the firm of James Brown & Son, artcraftsmen in iron and bronze, under the guidance of Mr. William W. Friskin, A.R.I.B.A., of Dundee.

PLANNING by "E. & O.E."

Copies of the 2nd impression of the 6th edition of this book are now available from the publishers, Iliffe & Son Ltd., price 21/-, by post 22/-.

The R.I.C.S. Library

The Library of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors will be closed for redecoration on Monday, September 18, and will reopen on Monday, October 9, 1950. During this period, it will not be possible, except in cases of extreme urgency, to answer inquiries. Neither will it be possible to issue books during the first two weeks, but it is hoped to resume a limited service from the Loan Library on October 2.

Glenrothes New Town

Mr. Hector M'Neil, Secretary of State for Scotland, opened on Wednesday, September 6, the new offices of the Glenrothes Development Corporation, Fife. The town was proposed on a basis of a 30,000 to 35,000 population but it is now anticipated that a figure considerably less than this need be catered for.

Sub-Standard Houses

An offer to Dundee Corporation by R. G. Tarnin and Son Ltd., to erect sub-standard houses in Dundee at a cost of approximately £500 each has been rejected by Mr. Hector M'Neil, Secretary of State for Scotland. On his instructions a letter has been sent to Dundee Corporation by the Department of Health for Scotland. It states that he was unable to give his approval to the proposal to provide a common outside bathroom and wash house which was regarded as a retrograde step.

Dundee Brick Prices

Dundee Town Council has agreed to pay 8s. per 1,000 more for bricks used in its schemes. The Corporation originally fixed a ceiling price of 140s. per 1,000 but has been forced now to meet a price of 148s. per 1,000 to ensure continued delivery of bricks.

In making this concession in order to secure supplies the City Architect pointed out that there were many contracts operating outwith Dundee where the builders would willingly pay the higher price and that all building in the city would be held up unless they were prepared to increase their ceiling.

In Fife the County Council has reported a shortage of bricks and delay to many schemes because of the current delays in obtaining supplies from brick-works.

Sighthill Health Centre

The Secretary of State for Scotland has been granted warrant by Edinburgh Dean of Guild Court for the erection of a health centre at Calder Road, Sighthill, Edinburgh. The estimated cost of the work is £138,000. The building will consist of four wings. The first will house a medical suite with consulting rooms for six doctors, and the second four dental surgeries and staff rooms, and administration, pharmacy and nurses' rooms. Physiotherapy and dressing rooms will be housed in the third wing, and maternity and welfare sections in the fourth wing.

APPOINTMENTS

The following short list of ten applicants has been selected for interview for the £1,200 a year post of Architect to Birkenhead Corporation:
Messrs. A. Sutton, A.R.I.B.A., Ewell, Surrey; T. A. Brittain, Dip. Arch., A.R.I.B.A., Widnes; J. V. Quarnby, Registered Architect, Southsea; E. Firth, A.M.T.P.I., A.R.I.B.A., York; H. Thornley, A.R.I.B.A., Banstead, Surrey; A. T. Parrott, A.R.I.B.A., Walsall; F. O. Hayes, A.R.I.B.A., Swansea; A. C. E. Chapman, A.R.I.B.A., Wolverhampton; H. Connolly, A.R.I.B.A., Eastbourne; and C. Bacon, F.R.I.B.A., Taunton.

We understand that Professor R. Gordon Brown has accepted an appointment as Head of the School of Architecture, Hongkong, at the University of Hongkong and has flown out.

OBITUARY

The death occurred on September 2, of James Alexander Arnott, F.R.I.B.A., of Edinburgh.

CORRECTION

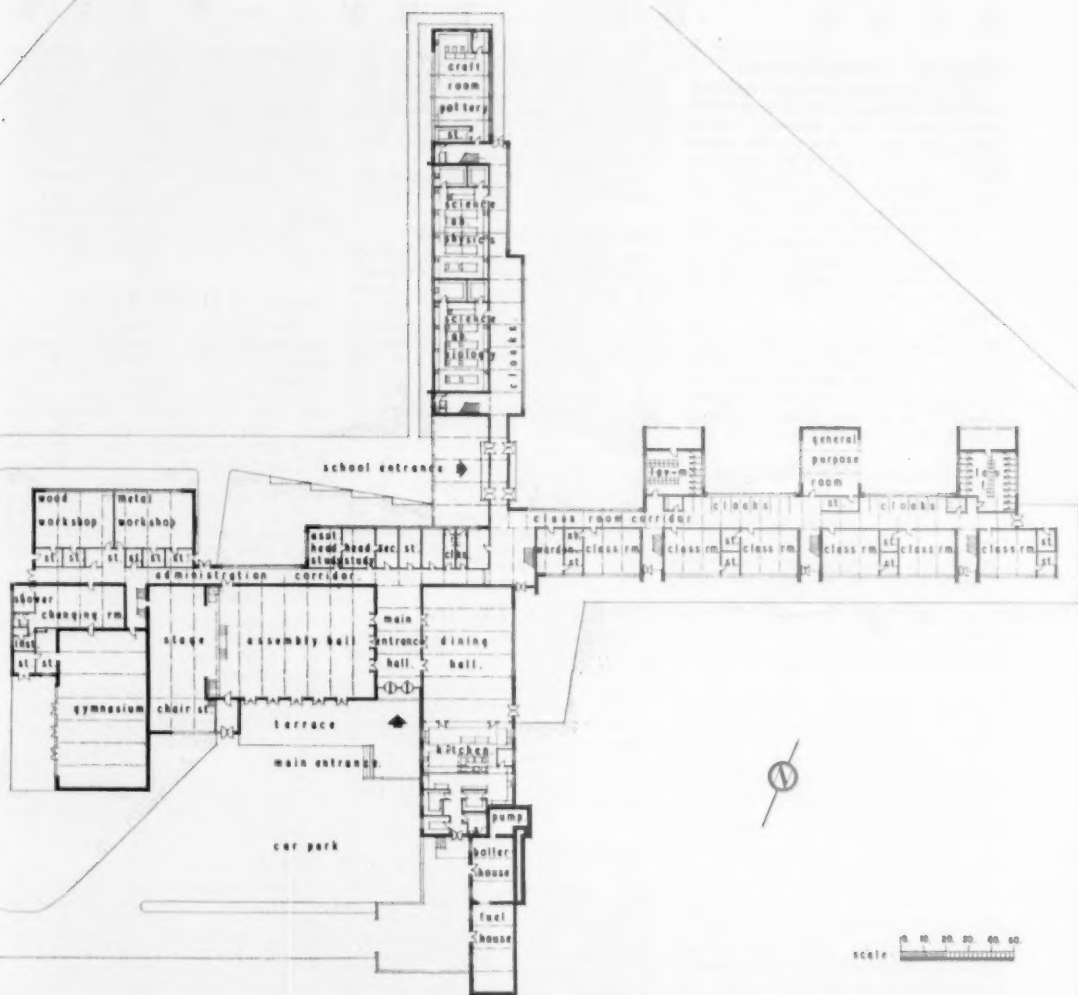
In our issue of August 25, the houses designed by C. Cowles-Voysey, which were awarded a Ministry of Health Medal in the South Eastern Region were credited to "Worthing R.D.C." These houses were erected by Worthing Borough Council.

COMING EVENTS

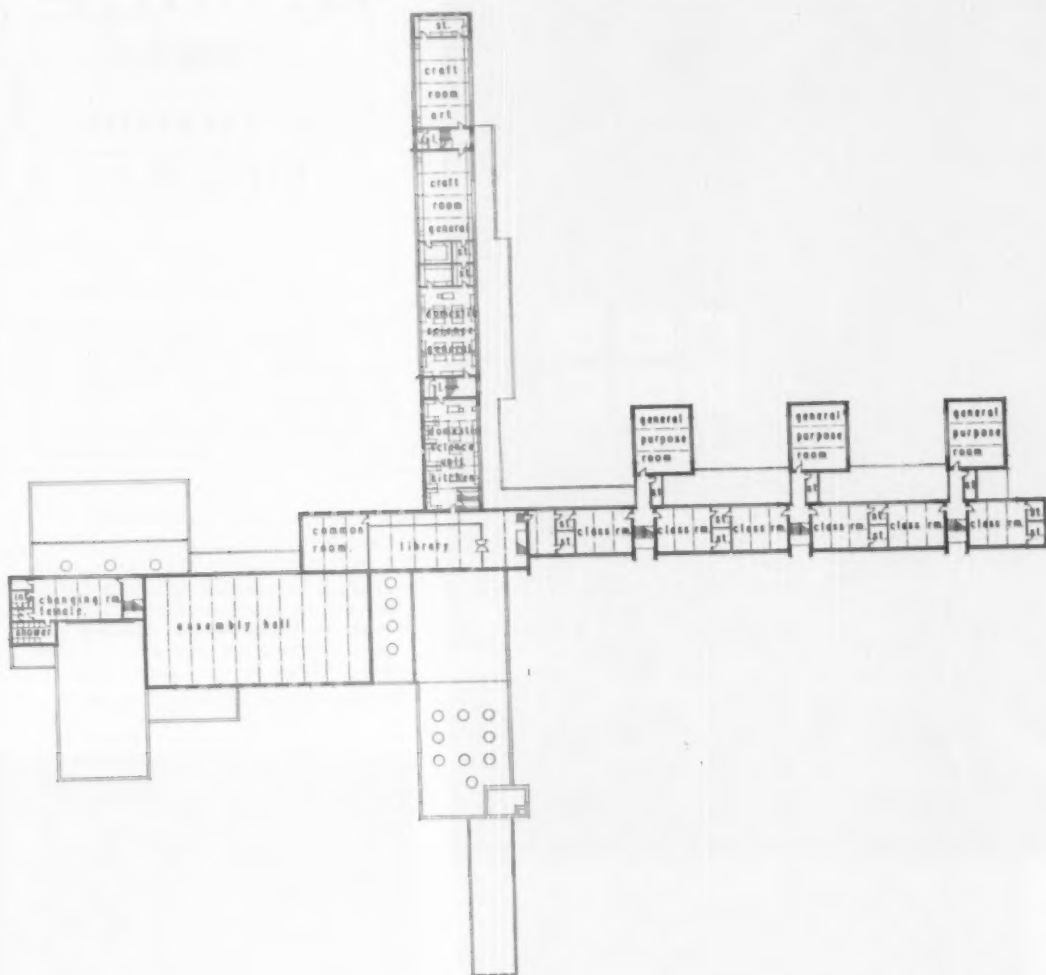
On The Air

● September 21, at 9.25 p.m. Third Programme. A Profile of Frank Lloyd Wright. Speaker: Robert Furneaux Jordan. Repeated on September 24, at 11.10 p.m.

● September 22, 29, and October 6, at 7.40 p.m. Home Service. "On Building a House—buying and finding a site, planning the house, how it was built." Speaker: A Suffolk Architect.



PROPOSED SECONDARY SCHOOL, ESSEX



THE requirements for this proposed secondary school at Stamford-Le-Hope for Essex County Council were for a 600 place mixed school. The area per place was not to exceed 90 sq. ft. This requirement made it necessary to inter-relate units with a minimum of circulation space. First floor corridors have therefore been eliminated entirely. The estimated cost per place has worked out at £270.

The building has been planned in accordance with the Ministry of Education's Circular No. 209/1949, and Building Bulletin No. 2 on Secondary Schools has been adhered to as far as local education requirements have permitted.

The structure will be of steel framing with brick external cladding. Floors will be precast concrete; staircases and landings in situ concrete. The metal troughing roofs will be covered with copper or other suitable material.

architect: GERALD LACOSTE, M.B.E., F.R.I.B.A.

In collaboration with H. CONOLLY, F.R.I.B.A., County Architect



ARCHITECTS' OFFICES

29 Sackville
Street, W.1

THE first floor, originally a club, was badly damaged by fire and has been reinstated and adapted by Hammett & Norton, Chartered Architects, for their own offices.

The front room has been divided by a glazed screen to form two drawing offices.

COLOUR SCHEME

General

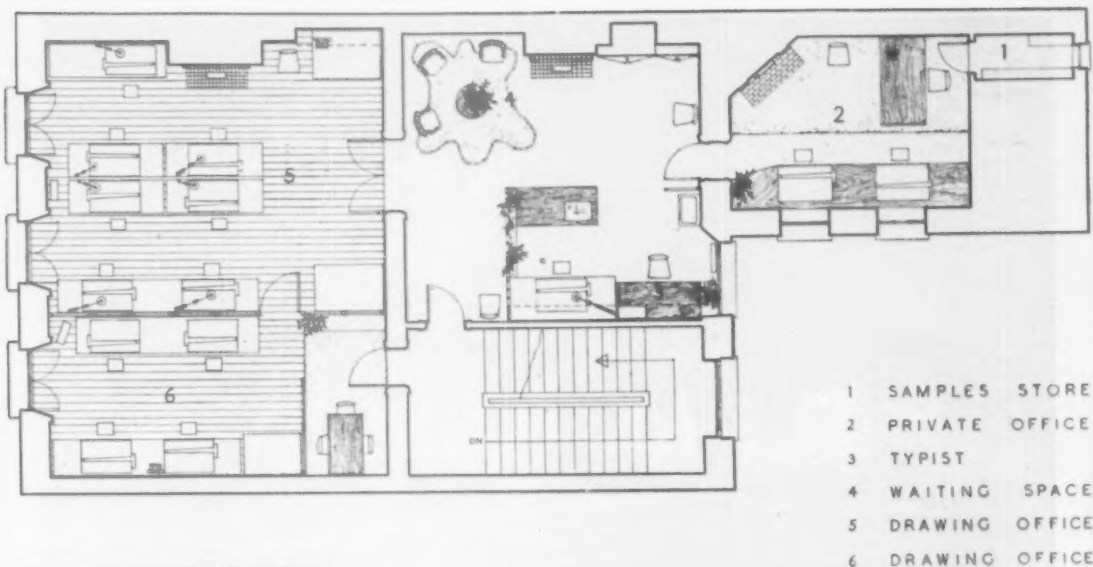
The walls, ceiling, door frames and windows are painted off white (white mixed with small amounts of red and blue), to provide warm reflecting surfaces. Skirtings are silver grey and flush doors polished oak.

architects:

R. DEREK HAMMETT,
A.R.I.B.A., A.M.T.P.I., A.A. Hons. Dipl.

C. A. R. NORTON,
A.R.I.B.A., A.A. Hons. Dipl.





Drawing Office

The wall opposite the windows and the insides of balconies are light blue; the floor boards are light stained and polished.

General Office

The angle walls forming the waiting space are finished with a maroon and white striped wallpaper. The cupboards have light blue doors with off white frames. The shelving is light blue with off white divisions. The floor is covered with terra cotta linoleum.

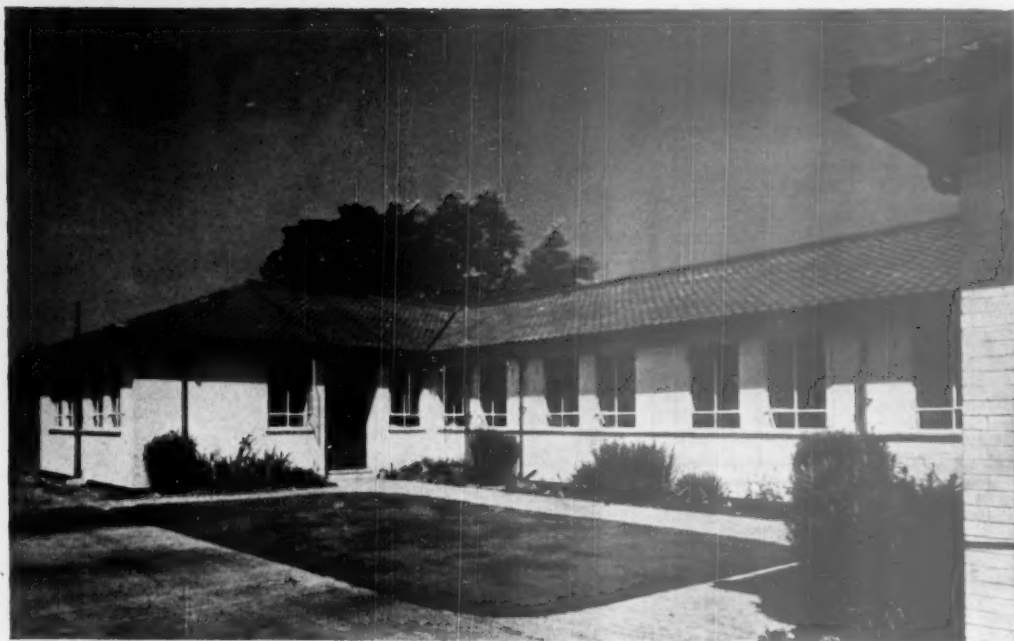
Private Office

The ceiling and frieze are a darker tone of off white to make the height of the room appear less. The dado, mantelpiece, window reveals and door frames are off white and the skirtings silver grey. The wall behind the desk and the window wall have pin-up boards painted off white at low level with "canvas" wallpaper over. The paper on the other two walls consists of narrow white and silver grey stripes with pink fleur de lys pattern. The drawing table and desk consist of pedestals painted silver grey and "Holloplast" mahogany finished tops with mahogany edge strips. The floor under the drawing table is covered with terra cotta linoleum and the remainder with a rust red Wilton carpet.

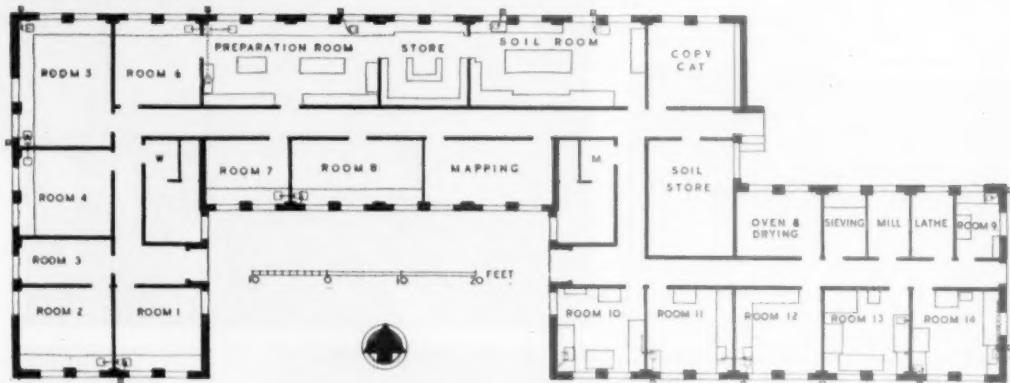
The chairs and stools are in birch covered with buff rexine.

The general contractors were Messrs. W. W. Rounney & Company Limited.





Nematology Laboratory



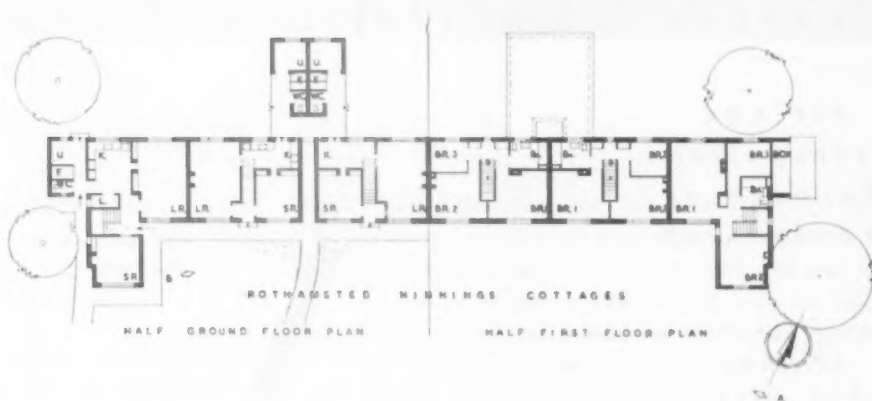
THE buildings illustrated have been built at Rothamsted for the Lawes Agricultural Trust. The cottages, known as Ninnings Cottages, are to house agricultural workers, and the laboratory building is for the study of Nematology (study of soil and plant nematoids [eel worms, etc.]). Walls are of flettons white washed externally, roofs are covered with Hendon asbestos tiles. The porches of the cottages are copper covered with oak uprights.

architect: J. B. F. COWPER, F.R.I.B.A.

LABORATORY AND COTTAGES, ROTHAMSTED



Agricultural Workers' Cottages, from viewpoint A



NEMATOTOLOGY LABORATORY.

General Contractors: C. Miskin & Sons Ltd., St. Albans.
 Laboratory Equipment and Benches: A. Gallenkamp & Co. Ltd.
 Venetian Blinds: J. Avery & Co.
 Electrical Work: Eastern Electricity Board.
 Heating and Hot Water Engineers: H. Eldred Ltd.
 Ironmongery: Comyn Ching & Co. Ltd.
 Hendon Purlin Asbestos Tiles: Universal Asbestos Manufacturing Co. Ltd., of Watford.
 Sanitary Fittings: Standard Range & Foundry Co. Ltd., of Watford.
 Metal Casements: Crittall Manufacturing Co. Ltd.
 Composition Floors and Tanking: Highways Construction Ltd.

NINNINGS COTTAGES

General Contractors: C. Miskin & Sons Ltd., St. Albans.
 Electrical Work: Eastern Electricity Board.
 Asphalt and Composition Flooring: Highways Construction Ltd.
 Ironmongery: Comyn Ching & Co. Ltd.
 Back to Back Fires: Eagle Range & Grate Co. Ltd.
 Hendon Purlin Asbestos Tiles: Universal Asbestos Manufacturing Co. Ltd., of Watford.
 Sanitary Fittings: Standard Range & Foundry Co. Ltd., of Watford.

EXPERIMENTAL STATION, HARPENDEN



Photo: Sound Stills Ltd.

ALEXANDER COURT, WEST SIDE, S.W.18

**For the
Metropolitan
Borough of
Wandsworth**

architects:
SCHERRER
AND HICKS,
M.A., F.F.R.I.B.A.

THE architects were instructed to prepare a scheme of flat development on a site approximately three-quarters of an acre of demolished terrace housing property on the West side of Wandsworth Common. This now provides a total of 24 dwellings consisting



BLOCK PLAN



South west Front

Photo: Sound Stills Ltd.

of eight 2-bedroom flats and sixteen 3-bedroom flats, each with a living room, kitchen, bathroom and separate W.C. The flats have staircase access and each flat has a balcony.

A tenants' cycle store, electric sub-station and rubbish bin store have been provided. Site planting together with tarmac paths and children's play space have been included.

Construction

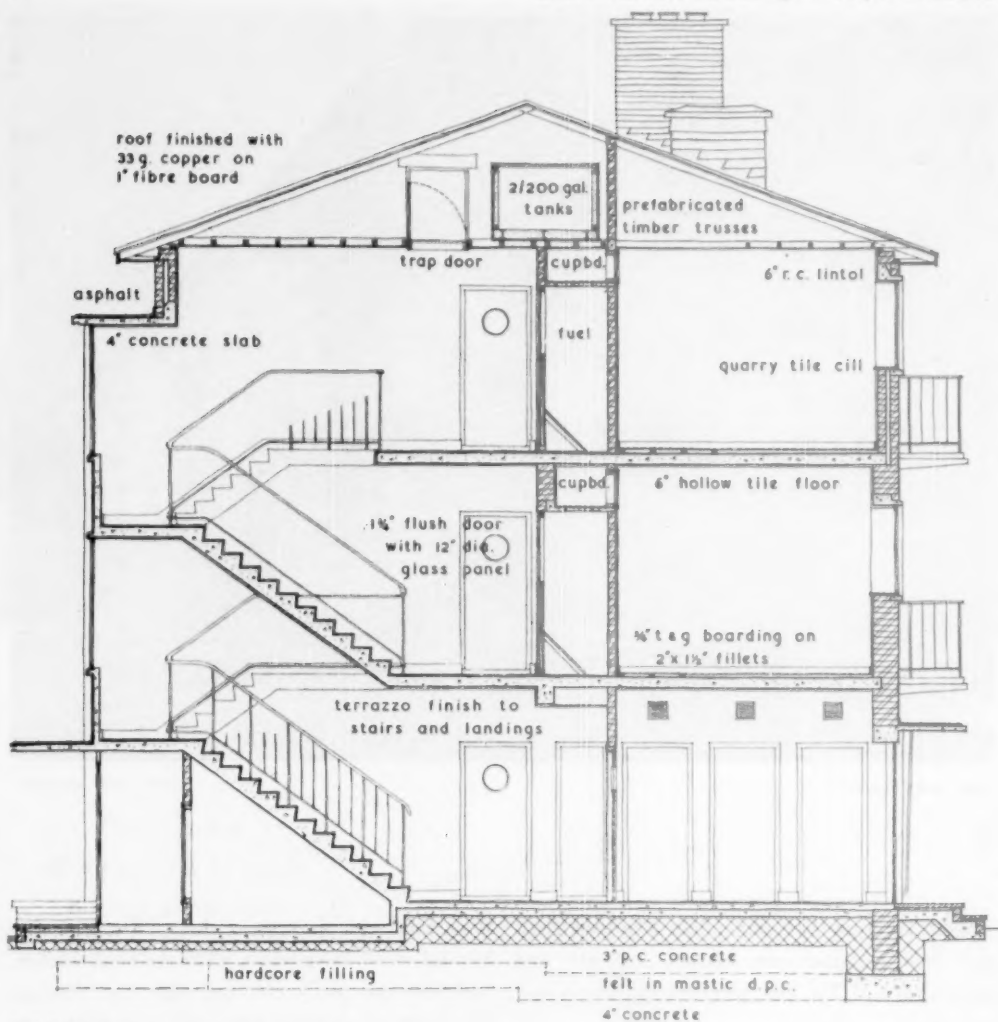
The walls are load bearing without framing and are constructed of brick. The floors are of reinforced hollow tile construction. The pitched roof is framed in timber and finished with an insulated copper roof. Windows throughout are metal casements in concrete surrounds. Metal door frames are used

throughout with flush panel doors. The floors are boarded in all living rooms, while the halls, kitchen, bathroom and W.C. are tiled with tiled skirtings. The staircase entrance hall walls are finished in fair faced Dunbrik and the landings and staircases in in-situ terrazzo.

The services include multi-point gas water heaters, gas and electric points in the kitchen for cookers to tenants' choice.

Cost

The cost per foot super based on the internal area of the flats alone is 47s. Od. while, taking into consideration the area of the public access halls, staircases, balconies, covered porches and outbuildings, the cost per foot super is 39s. Od. These costs include all garden works and site planting.



SECTION SCALE 1/6 INCH = 1 FT.

QUANTITY SURVEYOR: A. D. MASON, A.R.I.C.S.

GENERAL CONTRACTOR: HOAD & SON.

SUB-CONTRACTORS AND SUPPLIERS

Architectural Ironmongery: A. J. Binns Ltd.

Architectural Metalwork: G. H. W. Cashmore & Co.

Asphalte: Highways Construction Ltd.

Bricks: Pratt (Watford) Ltd.

Electricity Supply: London Electricity Board.

Floor Construction: The Kleine Co. Ltd.

Gas Supply and Installation: South Eastern Gas Board.

Garden Work: R. Neal & Sons Ltd.

Joinery: H. Newsum Sons & Co. Ltd.

Metal Windows and Doors: Williams & Williams Ltd.

Plumbing: J. Richard Audrey Ltd.

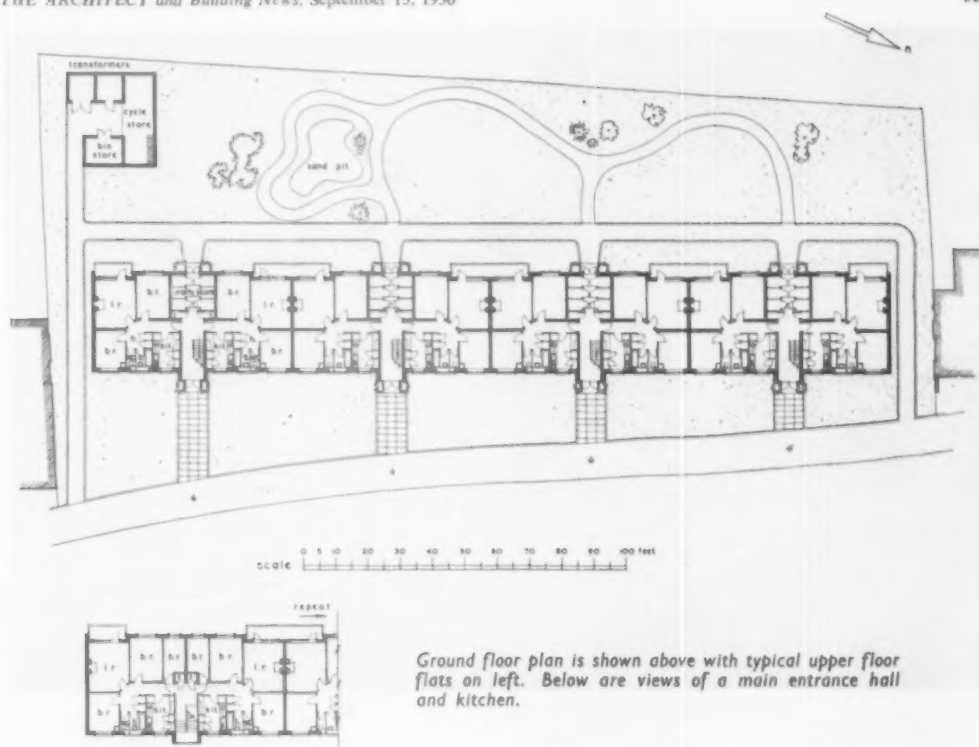
Roofing: Broderick Insulated Structures Ltd.

Sanitary Goods: Dent & Hellyer Ltd.

Terrazzo: Zanelli Ltd.

ALEXANDER COURT, WANDSWORTH

architects: Scherrer and Hicks, M.A., F.F.R.I.B.A.

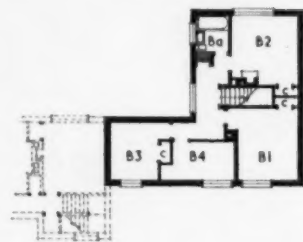


Ground floor plan is shown above with typical upper floor flats on left. Below are views of a main entrance hall and kitchen.

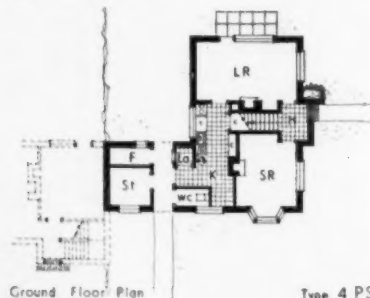


*Houghton Regis : General View*

HOUSING FOR THE LUTON R.D.C. by the Peter Dunham Group



First Floor Plan



Ground Floor Plan

Type 4 PST



THE housing problem in the district is similar to that in most rural areas, except that a good proportion of the tenants work in industry in Luton and Dunstable and do, in fact, require a more urban type of house. There are 22 parishes in the district and so far 300 houses have been completed on 21 sites. These sites vary in size from 46 houses in large villages to infilling pairs of houses in small villages.

The small firms of builders usually found in rural areas have been employed as much as possible along with the medium sized firms from the neighbouring town, and the building of 300 houses has meant arranging 66 separate contracts many of which were for only two houses.

The contracts were arranged on basic price per foot super and negotiated with the builders. This saved a considerable delay in the earlier stages of the programme and enabled the labour of the small village firms to be used fully by reducing the "paper work" to a minimum.

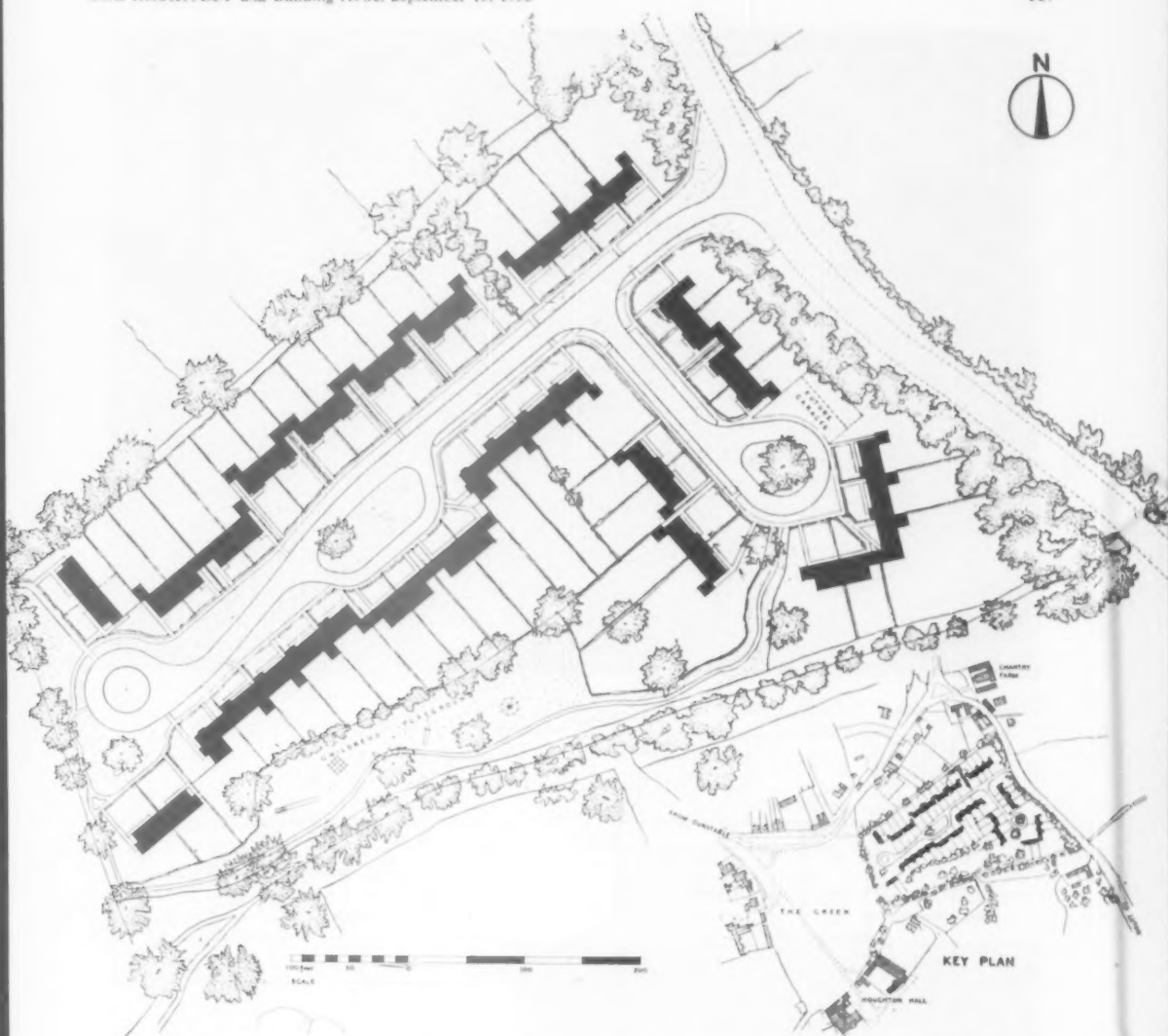
The houses illustrated are mainly on three of the largest sites, Houghton Regis, Toddington and Eaton Bray. The schemes at Houghton Regis and Eaton Bray are complete.

PLANS

Three and four bedroomed houses and a small proportion of two bedroomed bungalows for old people were required with "parlour" and "non-parlour" variations to the three bedroom types. There are 9 standard type plans with amendments to suit site conditions as required. Each terrace type has through access.

CONSTRUCTION

Traditional construction with 11 in. cavity walls, solid concrete ground floor and timber first floor and roof covered with concrete tiles.



HOUGHTON REGIS HOUSING SCHEME FOR LUTON R.D.C. FINISHES

Sand faced bricks with some houses roughcast and some painted with "Snowcem" for variety. Staircase projections on the Types 3PES and 3PET are picked out with buff-facings on some contracts. Front doors are painted bright colours, gutters and down pipes grey and window frames white. The Sitting and Living rooms are covered with "Marley Floor Tiles" and the Hall and Kitchen with 6 in. \times 6 in. quarry tiles. There are built-in cupboards in bedrooms and specially designed cupboard-hatch and table units in the kitchen. Cooking is by gas or electricity depending on local availability. "Marathon" convector fires in the living room provide hot water and convected warm air to a bedroom.

CONTRACTORS

The main contractors for the schemes illustrated are:

Houghton Regis—Messrs. Richardson & Bottoms Ltd., 19 Hazelbury Crescent, Luton, Beds.
Toddington—Messrs. Tew Bros (Luton) Ltd., 51 Grosvenor Road, Luton, Beds.

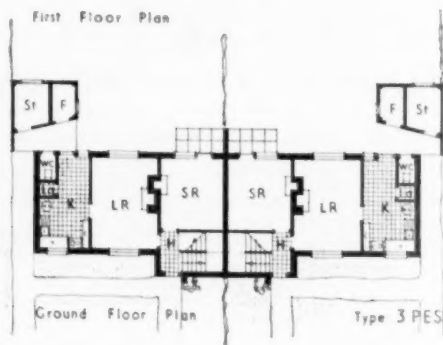
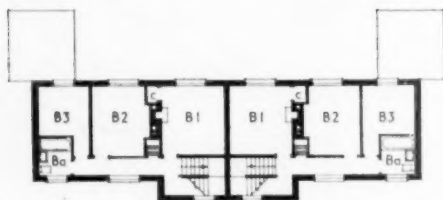
Eaton Bray—Messrs. D. J. Woodley (Builders) & Co., Sundon Park Estate, Luton, Beds.

Other contractors employed on similar houses on other sites are:

Messrs. Carter & Simpson, 48 Carlton Crescent, Luton, Beds.
 Messrs. A. G. Peck (Contractors) Ltd., 5-7 Wenlock Street, Luton, Beds.
 Messrs. Robinson & White Ltd., Edward Street, Dunstable, Beds.
 L. R. Cole Esq., 112 Union Street, Dunstable, Beds.
 Messrs. W. Gutteridge Ltd., 26 Studley Road, Luton, Beds.
 U. P. Loughton Esq., Moor End, Eaton Bray, Beds.
 J. Murden Esq., Luton Road, Barton, Beds.
 W. Brazier Esq., 1 Sharpenhoe Road, Barton, Beds.
 E. W. Tomblin Esq., 16 Wesley Road, Markyate, Herts.
 J. Newell Esq., 80 Chaul End Road, Caddington, Beds.
 Messrs. W. J. Seymour & Son, The Poplars, Toddington, Beds.
 Messrs. G. Dawson & Son, Mentmore Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.
 Messrs. H. Sanders & Son, 6 Cavendish Road, Markyate, Beds.
 Messrs. A. & E. Fensome, 34 High Street, Dunstable, Beds.
 E. Miles Esq., Leopold Road, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, Beds.
 R. J. Parkins Esq., 134 Chiltern Road, Dunstable, Beds.



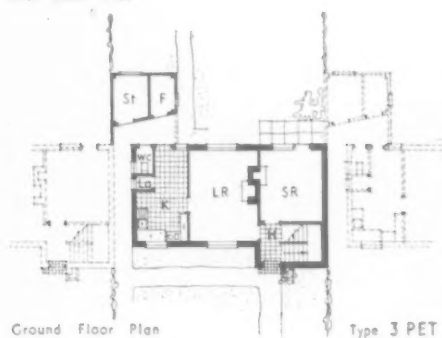
Terrace of types 3 PES and 3 PET



Scale 1:100 0 5 10 15 20



First Floor Plan

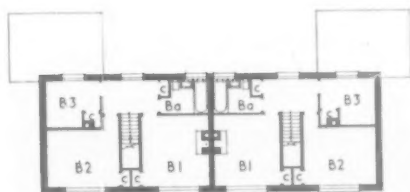


Scale 1:100 0 5 10 15 20

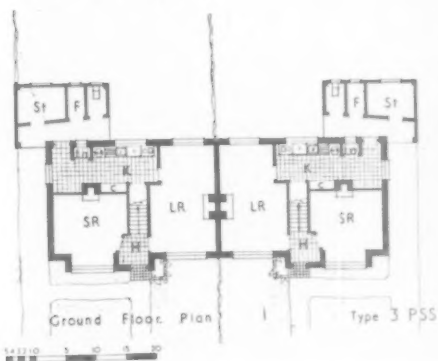
H O U G H T O N R E G I S H O U S I N G S C H E M E



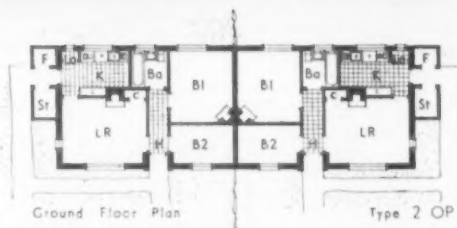
HOUGHTON REGIS
Old People's Bungalows

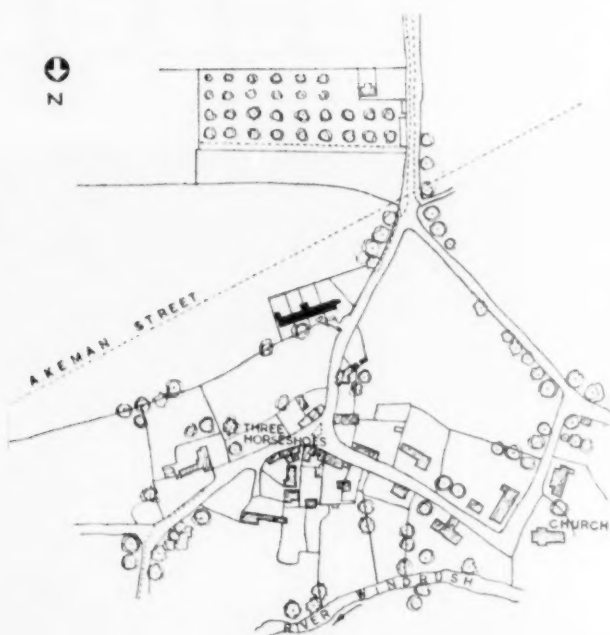


First Floor Plan



House type 3 PSS



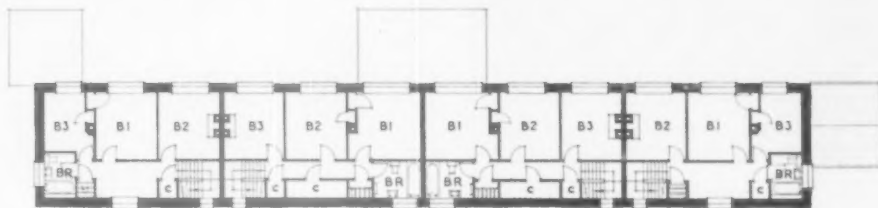


*Terrace of
four houses
in local stone
at Asthall
near Burford
Oxon.
for the Witney
R.D.C.*

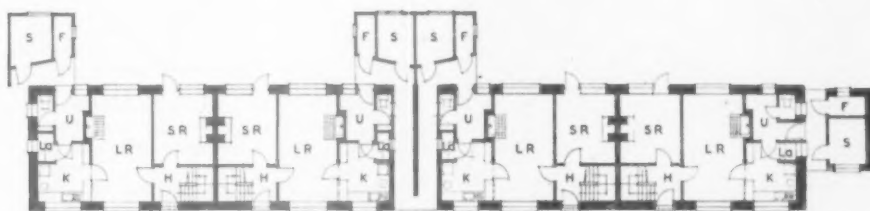
*architects :
The
Peter Dunham
Group*



NORTH ELEVATION



FIRST FLOOR PLAN

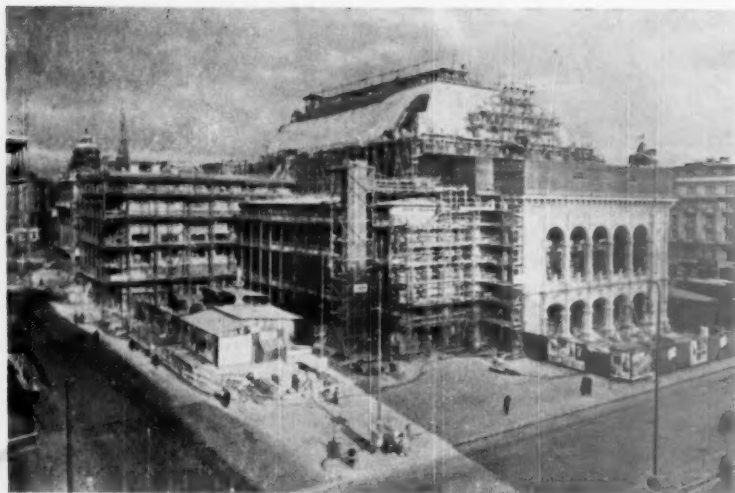


GROUND FLOOR PLAN

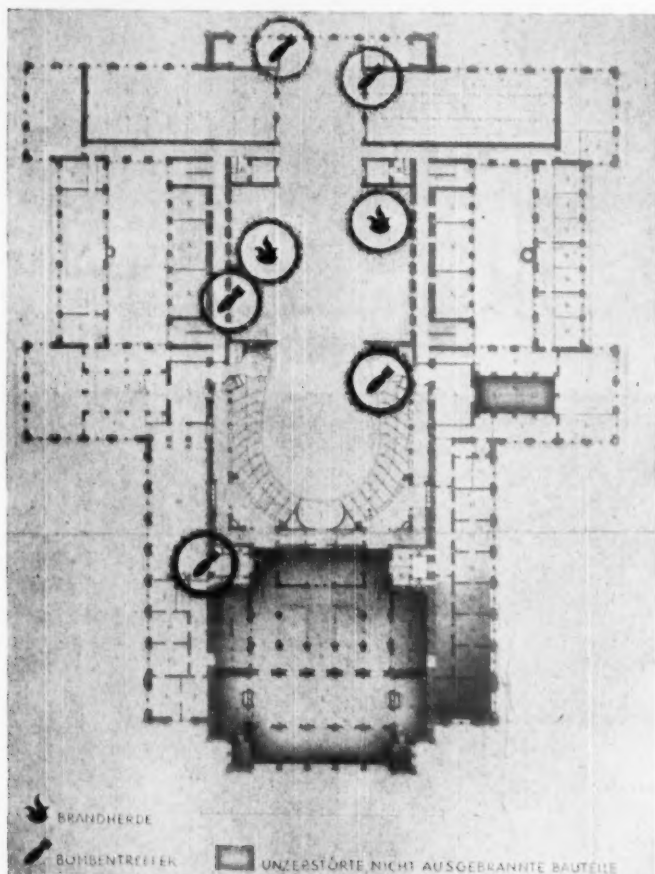


TERRACE OF FOUR HOUSES AT ASTHALL

The Reconstruction of the Vienna Opera House



The roof over the auditorium has been completed.



Plan showing where incendiaries and explosives fell. The shaded portions were undamaged.

THE Opera House was built to the designs of Eduard Van der Null and August Siccard von Siccardsburg. Work began in 1861 and the opening opera was performed on May 25th, 1869. In March 1945, during a heavy air attack on the city, five bombs fell on the Opera House itself and fire broke out. The front part of the building (shaded on plan) was saved from destruction by the force of the blast which blew in the main entrance doors on the Ring and swept the fire towards the back of the stage, but the interior (including the main staircase ceiling, damage to which has only recently been discovered) was badly affected by water and superficial cracking. The roof over the auditorium and stage-house collapsed and these portions of the building had to be completely cleared before new work could start.

In June of this year, although final plans for the auditorium had not yet been decided, structural work on the main body of the house was progressing as fast as money and materials would allow. The stage is to be lowered by two feet and the slope of the auditorium increased, in order to raise the eye-level of the stalls. Room has been made for one side-stage, and the revolving front stage, when rolled back, will be folded and lowered to the basement. Six hydraulically operated stage lifts are planned. Work was still going on, however, on the backstage which has been widened; the old supports at the front have been replaced by a single reinforced concrete beam on side piers. It was hoped to begin the stage roof in July and the internal construction of the auditorium "quite soon" but the rebuilding of the main stage was still in the future.



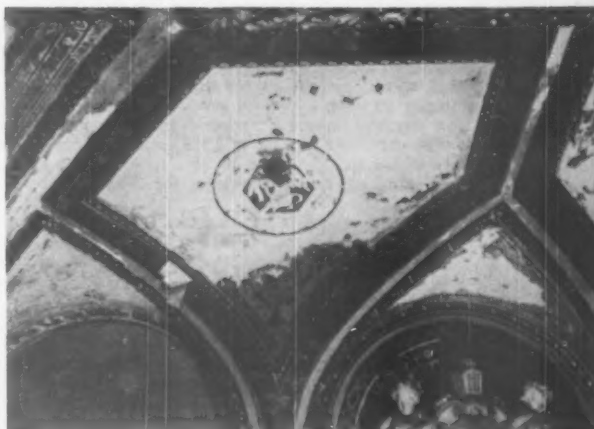
Spraying concrete on to the roof.

The steelwork and the two-inch concrete shell on wood fibre of the auditorium roof are complete and, by now, the fixing of the copper covering may have already started. Concrete sprayers were used for the shell. By this method, the dry mix is pumped up to the roof from containers at ground level, and both the water (which is separately piped) and the air content can be exactly controlled by the operator. The strength of the concrete, as a result, can be more reliably calculated than with the usual laying methods.

The restoration of the interior decoration of the front of the Opera House has occupied the last two years. The photographs of the foyer ceilings, before and after restoration, give some idea of the extent of the damage. But when it is remembered that the ceiling paintings are in oil while the semi-circular panels are frescoes; that the flower decoration along the vaulting ribs is hand-printed with wood blocks on fine canvas ribbons, and that the flower panels at each side of the foyer doors are painted on silk against a gold leaf background, the amount of work and the variety of crafts involved can be more accurately measured.

The Foyer is to open each end into two side galleries, at present used as administrative offices. Architect Otto Prossinger, assisted by Felix Cevela, will plan the gallery along the Operngasse; Architect Ceno Kosak, the gallery on the Karntnerstrasse side. This gallery is to be decorated with tapestries made by the Gobelin Manufaktur, Vienna, and at present in process of design by Professor Eisenmenger. I was, however, shown the sketches, in which the problem of matching the richness of the original decor with an entirely contemporary design, had been very effectively overcome. The re-gilding of the Loggia is not yet finished.

The reconstruction of the State Opera House is being used as an opportunity to rebuild it in accordance with modern stage design and theatre requirements. Public safety regulations have necessitated bringing all the main staircases, other than stage staircases, into public use and extending them, where necessary, down to the ground and up to the higher galleries. Space has been found below the new terrace



The foyer. Top: the damaged ceiling. Bottom: as reconstructed.

roofs over the Loggia and side galleries (areas formerly taken up by pitched roofs) for extra refreshment and cloakroom accommodation. Reconstruction has also provided an opportunity for the display of that craftsmanship in which Vienna excels. It was hoped, in June, that the annual Opera ball might once again be held in the State Opera, in 1952, when visitors from all over the world would be able to judge the superlative standards of its craftsmen for themselves.

ROSEMARY RENDEL.

* * *

Permission was obtained from Ministerialrat, Dr. Ceipek, Architect in charge of reconstruction at the Ministry of Trade and Reconstruction, to visit the Opera House and use the results in an article. The difficulties attendant on obtaining information, without any knowledge of German, were overcome by the kindness of several busy people, who had no obvious reason to be so helpful, and by the untiring explanations of Dr. Waska, whose office is in the Opera House itself. R. R.



The reconstructed Loggia

LIBRARY NOTES

Cambridge Planning Proposals. A Report to the Cambridge- shire County Council.

By Wm. Holford and H. Myles Wright, Cambridge U. Press, 1950; 2 vols. 30s.

THE authors of this work have produced a very well-considered and detailed report on the present state, the mistakes that might happen and the possible future of the Borough of Cambridge. We have now seen plans for both the major Universities and, without drawing invidious comparisons, it is evident that while that for Oxford was the more urgent requirement, by reason of the expansion of adjacent suburbs and of industry, the Cambridge plan is scarcely less important to keep their town from internal spoliation, from sporadic growth and to place it in general perspective related not only to the life of the county but to that of the nation.

The publishers and printers of this book are to be congratulated on their production; it is pleasant to look at, to read and to handle. In particular the clarity and conciseness of the maps and plans included in volume 2 are especially worthy of commendation. It is interesting to note that this report, as opposed to some others recently published, maintains the format size that has proved itself so useful in the past and, is, therefore, well-established for reports of this kind. There seem to be no particular reasons for departure from it.

The planning proposals set out in these volumes are now being considered. It is, therefore, difficult to comment on the details of the more intimate and local problems which may arise. They

are *sub judice* and the particular concern of those who live, work, learn and teach in Cambridge. The extensive knowledge and space that would be required to weigh against that of the report and its authors would be too great for analysis of the many minor points and the many recommendations of the report.

What is possible is to point out those major things which can be said to be of interest to a wider public, a national public who may be concerned to protect an institution that is a national asset of international repute. The first of these is the proposal to put a limit to the growth of Cambridge to ensure its own amenities and conservation. Limitation will be required not only to the number of inhabitants and the area of the town but of its industry. The latter should not be encouraged to concentrate in a University town. Is not the lesson and congestion of Oxford enough?

The second important proposal is for the organised setting aside of land for future University use. When it is realised that the probable expenditure within the next ten years by the University and the colleges will be in the region of £2,000,000, the proper location of sites and the extensions to existing lands assume an important priority in a town of this size.

A third factor affects those outside Cambridge even more: it is proposed to plan new link roads on the outskirts to enable traffic to bypass and to avoid the urban congestion if it wants to. New roads are also proposed in and about the centre to relieve internal congestion and to ensure the protection of the University and College buildings from the noise and bustle of unnecessary traffic. If these latter proposals can ensure the preservation of the Backs

alone they must be accepted as worth the outlay. That these internal re-organisations will mean interferences with existing properties, in particular, for example, that of Jesus College, then these must be endured for the protective benefits which would be brought about, not only for individual areas of the town but for the whole, as an urban community, largely devoted to learning, a centre of national heritage with its ancient buildings established through the centuries for the extension of human thought. We cannot afford to lose many more of these reminders of culture.

Ultimately may a reminder, if it is not too banal, be uttered? The proof of any plan is its adoption and execution; let Cambridge be helped by the hard work and conclusions of its consultants; too many similar plans are in process of being shelved or watered down for the purpose of becoming official "development plans" for the statutory year of 1951. Cambridge, with the help of its County Authority, should be wiser and more constant.

S. ROWLAND PIERCE

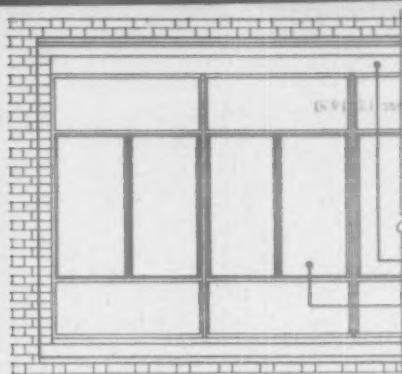
The Story of Architecture.

By P. Leslie Waterhouse; Third edition revised by R. A. Cordingley, M.A., F.R.I.B.A., Batsford, 1950. 10s. 6d. net.

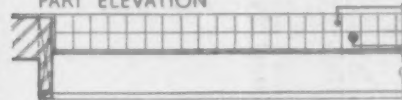
A History of Architecture.

By H. Heathcote Statham; third edition revised by Hugh Braun, F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A., Batsford, 1950. 21s. net.

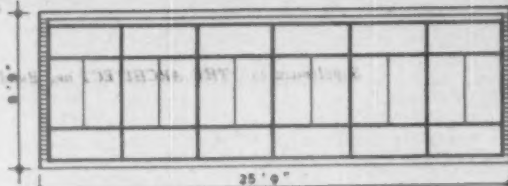
THESE two one-time surveys of architecture entered into their new lives within a few weeks of each other. The older, Wilkinson's *Story of Archi-*



PART ELEVATION



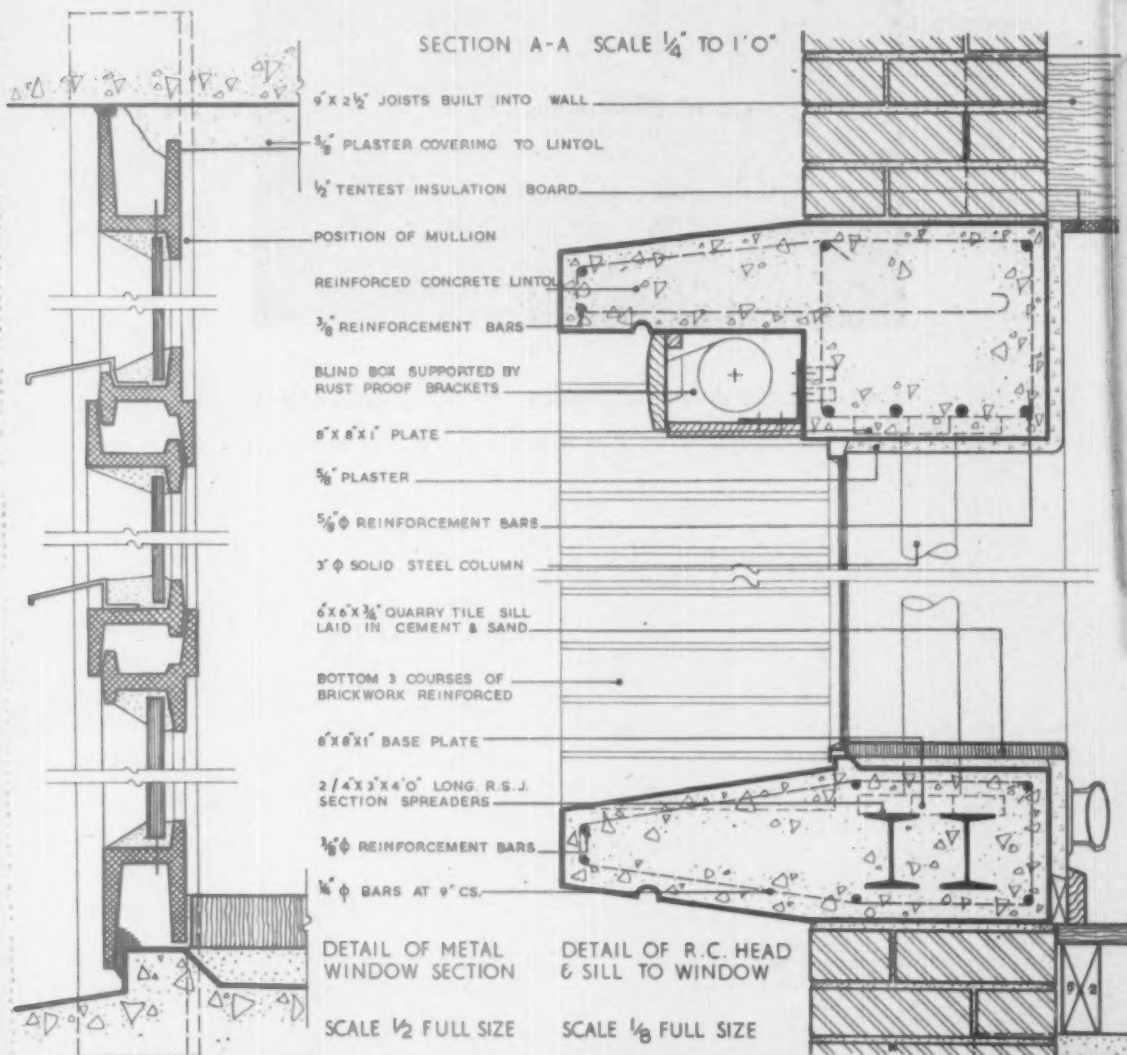
PART PLAN SCALE $\frac{1}{4}$ " TO 1'0"



KEY ELEVATION
SCALE $\frac{1}{8}$ " TO 1'0"

- BLIND BOX
- OPENING LIGHTS
- REINFORCED CONCRETE SILL
- QUARRY TILE SILL
- 3" ϕ SOLID STEEL COLUMN
- 3 BOTTOM COURSES OF BRICKWORK REINFORCED

SECTION A-A SCALE $\frac{1}{4}$ " TO 1'0"



- 9" x 2 1/2" JOISTS BUILT INTO WALL
- 3/8" PLASTER COVERING TO LINTOL
- 1/2" TEMENT INSULATION BOARD

POSITION OF MULLION

REINFORCED CONCRETE LINTOL

3/8" REINFORCEMENT BARS

BLIND BOX SUPPORTED BY
RUST PROOF BRACKETS

6" x 6" x 1" PLATE

3/8" PLASTER

5/8" ϕ REINFORCEMENT BARS

3" ϕ SOLID STEEL COLUMN

6" x 6" x 3/4" QUARRY TILE SILL
LAID IN CEMENT & SAND

BOTTOM 3 COURSES OF
BRICKWORK REINFORCED

6" x 6" x 1" BASE PLATE

2/4" x 3" x 4'0" LONG R.S.J.
SECTION SPREADERS

1/8" ϕ REINFORCEMENT BARS

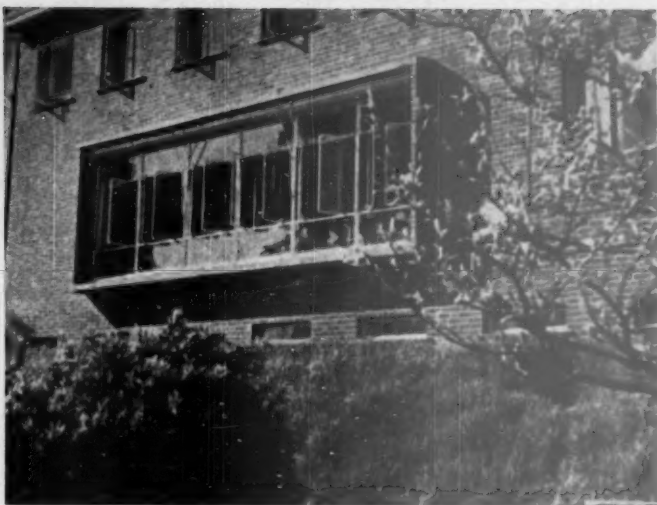
1/4" ϕ BARS AT 9" CS.

DETAIL OF METAL
WINDOW SECTION

DETAIL OF R.C. HEAD
& SILL TO WINDOW

SCALE 1/2" FULL SIZE

SCALE 1/8" FULL SIZE



DINING ROOM WINDOW, JUNIOR SCHOOL, CANTERBURY

ARCHITECT : EDWARD D. MILLS

A & B N ARCHITECTS' DETAILS

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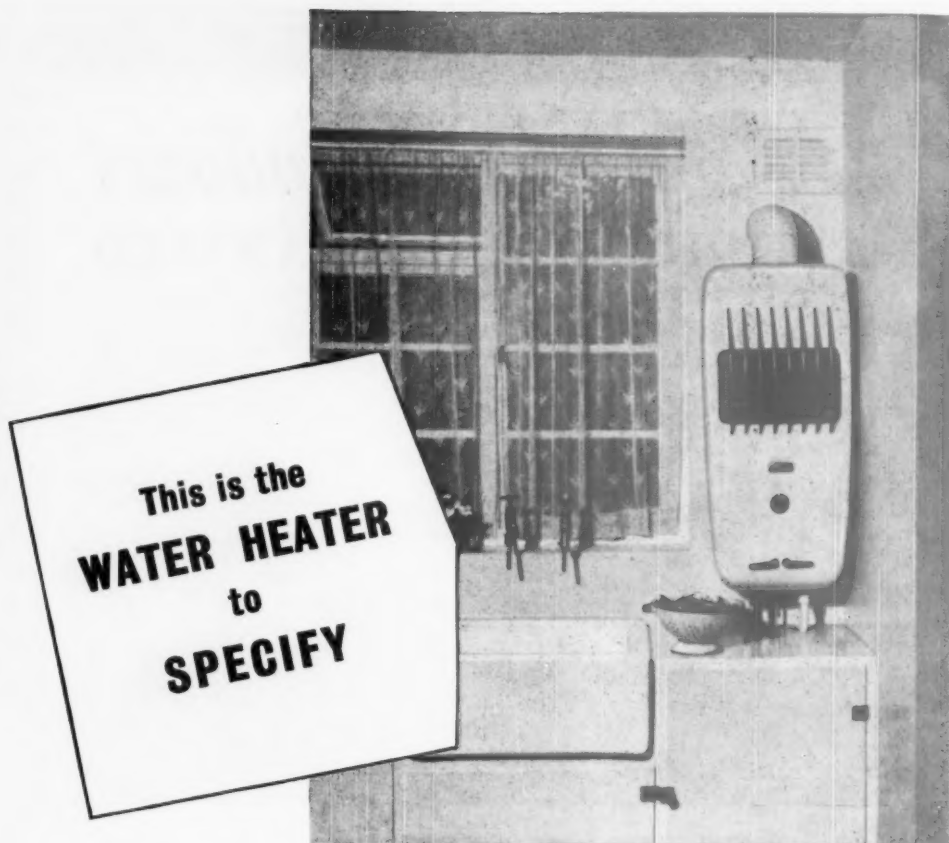


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ecture, was first published in 1902. It has always been a good smaller short history and was originally published, presumably, for the interested layman and for the art student—as opposed to the architectural student or the specialist historian. It is such still and is republished in a handy form suitable for the pocket or the satchel.

The *Story* has been thoroughly revised by Professor Cordingley in a careful, sympathetic and open-minded manner. New illustrations have been carefully chosen and in most cases these are worthy additions; the reproductions, though often small, being generally up-to-date and adequate—if the almost libellous colour block of one of Cotman's finest water-colours, used as a frontispiece, be excepted.

All parts of Professor Cordingley's new text have been brought up to date, especially those sections dealing with Aegean, Etruscan and Roman work, which in the light of new discoveries have been almost completely re-written. The last part of the book has been extended to carry forward the story to the years immediately preceding the last war. An omission is a former, short chapter on Saracenic architecture, which can be regretted, for it is a phase of art all important in its relationships to medieval Europe. A useful bibliography is included, though the omission of the dates of the references is to be deprecated.

Statham's book started life (in 1912) with the title, "A Short Critical History of Architecture." As such it was what the author meant it to be; a rather personal sort of "critical commentary on the merits and weaknesses of the various styles . . . inviting the reader to consider what are the influences . . . which go to produce good or bad architecture . . ." Indeed, as such, many would have wished to see it remain.

Republishing might well have avoided a change of title and have taken the form of a reprint rather than a re-writing by a reviser who admits that he "has experienced some difficulty in repressing his own views, based upon more recent examination . . ." Statham's original work will, for many serious students, especially those of the Victorian era, remain a document of the times and the first edition will always form a reference for the spirit of his time and as a post-Victorian view of the 19th century of the history of architecture.

The new edition has become *A History of Architecture*, no longer so short and only retaining the previous personal critical outlook to a limited extent. In spite of its new title, in the space and new form it takes, the book can neither be a real history nor a "critical commentary."

Even so, many will find its contents of use as a survey of past architecture or as "check-reading" for examinations. The excellent chronological appendices and the outline Glossary are retained. The main criticism of the actual publication must fall on the illustrations and here the reviser has not been well-served. Many, too many of the old half-tone illustrations have been used with different ink, on different paper with many disastrous results. (Compare Fig. 400, 1st Ed. with Fig. 401, 3rd Ed.—same original photographs—

the new one is almost useless and there are many other similar examples which might be quoted.)

As a complementary consequence, too many of the old and reused photographs are out-of-date; for example—that of the Temple of Nike Apteros (Fig. 107)—this temple has been rebuilt since this photograph was taken (see an excellent photograph by Werner Bischof in *The Observer* of Oct. 30, 1949).

The illustration of the Erechtheion (Fig. 106) bears no relation to the present state of that building—in any case the block is a bad one. Fig. 67 purports to show "the present state of the Parthenon," but it so old that it omits all the careful work of reconstruction which has been done to this building since 1925 (see present reviewers' notes on the work in the *A.A. Journal*, June 1926). The "peristyle" courtyard of the Palace of Diocletian at Spalato has also received considerable care and attention since the photograph that is used for Fig. 241 was taken (pre-1920 ?)

Only the publishers (or the printers?) could say what has happened to such illustrations as Fig. 259 (Autun) or Fig. 535 (Hornham Hall) or what use such poor reproductions are to students or others who wish to get positive ideas of the buildings illustrated. Where the illustrations are new, and there are quite a number, or are included as line blocks in the text, they are generally good; though certain contemporary architects might have something to say about some of those pictures near the end of the book. (It is interesting to see that Dr. Holden has been awarded a Knighthood by the proof-reader—Fig. 597.)

The present revision of Statham's book must have entailed a considerable amount of modern research and it would seem a pity that the references which contributed to it could not have been included, either by references in the text or in the form of a bibliography for the use of more serious readers.

Much of this book will be found of value to general readers and to some students, but it is difficult to be persuaded that anyone, or architecture, is served by poor reproductions in what is an essential part of any work dealing with the visual arts.

In thirty-eight years there has been greater improvement in these things than this new edition shows.

S. R. P.

The Face of Wales

By Tudor Edwards.

(Batsford,

12s. 6d.)

WHEN the Editor asked me to review *The Face of Wales* I was delighted because here was a book about the country for which I have the greatest affection.

Reviewing it also meant that I should acquire an illustrated Batsford book on Wales and this had great attractions for me. But, I was soon to be disappointed.

Although the book is well produced, as Batsford books always are, and is packed with clear photographs on a

variety of subjects, the script is 116 dreary pages long.

Why are they dreary?

Partly, I think, because the writing is not clear and straightforward, and the reader is entitled to expect the meaning of written words to be conveyed to him in direct and simple language.

Sometimes it may be possible to write a chapter, or even a whole book, with other qualities as well; but almost without exception the main purpose of prose is to convey meaning clearly. Imagine my disappointment on reading this in the first paragraph of the first chapter of the book:

"Westward lies this land of Wales, its deep valleys filled with shadows, its domed moorlands given over to hill-ponies and sheep, its quick-glinting rivers, lavishing towns of antique beauty, its villages falling lazily about verdant slopes where sometimes the Moloch-like-pitheads are darkly silhouetted against the indented sky-line."

Again the first sentence of chapter 10 is this:

"Beddgelert squatting grey-walled between the mountains and laved by three impetuous streams, Glaslyn, Colwen and Gwynant, bestows its benison upon those who seek beauty in minor tones and adagio moods."

Whenever the author gets into the realm of description, and much of this book is descriptive, we are treated to this sort of thing.

Why have long or obscure words to be used when there are short or common ones to do the job? Why shouldn't the word "washing" be used instead of "laving"; "green" instead of "verdant" and elsewhere in the book, "is" instead of "exists" and "windows" instead of "fenestration"?

A further irritation throughout the book is the misuse of adjectives. I turned the book open at random and on page 33 I came across the words "the shattered hill-top ruins of Dryllwyn Castle dominate the landscape." The author does not go on to tell us why it was "shattered." And at my next random opening of the book I find this on page 13:

"Robert Oldmeadow in a *piquant* essay has already indicated that Caerphilly cheese is *no more*, or rather that what remains of it is now manufactured in *alien Leicester*."

It would seem that the eight words I have put in italics are irritatingly redundant.

This is perhaps the right point to quarrel with the author's use of words which convey meaning only if they are carefully explained by him, or if the author is sufficiently well known for his inferences to be understood. Of such words I found "indifferent" used on two occasions in this way:

"Llangollen itself is an indifferent town . . ."

"Llanrwst is now an indifferent market town . . ."

What does this word "indifferent" mean?

My dictionary tells me that it means "commonplace" or "mediocre" but the author can't mean that. The commonplace may be to one man what heaven is to another; and, anyway, Llanrwst has a bridge which is supposed to have been designed by Inigo

Jones: that should lift it out of the "commonplace."

This is what the author says of the bridge:

"This excellent bridge, of 1636, has been referred to by some topographers as being feminine, though it has the grace and strength of a male ballet-dancer and is perhaps hermaphroditic."

So that you may get a clear picture of this bridge you may like to know that a dictionary definition of the word "hermaphroditic" is "a person or animal with indeterminate sexual organs."

Apart from "clarity" what else should one expect of a book of this sort? There are, I think, two other things.

Firstly, the book should impart information; and, secondly, it should do so in an interesting way. There is information in this book, lots of it, and the trouble may be that the author tells us far too little about far too much.

There is something to be said for the negro preacher whose three golden rules when preaching were "first I tell them what I'm going to tell them; then I tell them; and finally, I tell them what I've told them!"

Strings of information can be awfully dull to read and attention cannot be maintained without being given a little bit of "jam" now and again. I would even have welcomed some . . . "romantic hocus-pocus . . ." to help me on my way; but the author apparently does not like that sort of thing.

A. DOUGLAS JONES.

BOOKS RECEIVED

Inside the Pub, by Maurice Gorham and H. McG. Dunnett. Published by the Architectural Press. Price 18s.

Bonusing for Builders and Allied Trades, by Frank Russon. Published by Norman Tiptaft Ltd., 21 St. Paul's Square, Birmingham, 3.

Tube Works Gauges and Gauging Practice, by F. W. Clark. Published by Stewarts and Lloyds Ltd., Brook House, Upper Brook Street, W.1. Price 5s.

Houses of Outstanding Historic or Architectural Interest. Published by H.M.S.O. Price 3s.

Management Research in Retailing, by H. Pasdermadjian. Published by Newman Books Ltd., Avon House, Oxford Street, W.1. Price 16s.

Sketching for Craftsmen, by Ernest Hoyle. Published by The City and Guilds Series, English Universities Press Ltd., St. Paul's House, Warwick Square, E.C.4. Price 5s.

Trees for Town and Country. Compiled by the Association for Planning and Regional Construction. Published by Lund Humphreys, 12 Bedford Square, W.C.1. Price 25s.

Modern Swiss Architecture, by Max Bill. Published by Tiranti Ltd., 72 Charlotte Street, W.1. Price £3 18s.

Geometry III, by George A. Hanby. Published by Putman. Price 7s. 6d.

Architects' Builders' and Civic Engineers' Reference Book, by E. Molloy. Published by Newnes. Price 63s.

Letcombe Bassett—some records of an ancient Berkshire village. By Frederick T. Barrett. Published by Alfred Press, Wantage, Berks. Price 2s. 6d.

British Standards for Building Materials—Components for Housing, B.S. Handbook No. 3, 1950. Published by British Standards Institution. Price 25s.

Principles and Use of Surveying Instruments, by J. Clendinning. Published by Blackie & Son Ltd. Price 15s.

The City of Birmingham Handbook. Edited by F. W. Bradnock. Published by City of Birmingham Information Department.

The Story of Architecture, by P. Leslie Waterhouse. Published by Batsford. Price 10s. 6d.

The Canals of England, by Eric de Maré. Published by Architectural Press. Price 18s.

B.S.598: 1950

British Standard for sampling and examination of bituminous road mixtures (B.S.598: 1950) has just been issued. It covers the sampling and testing of asphalt and tar macadam. The section on the sampling of materials has been extended and now deals with sampling at the factory, sampling the contents of vehicles, sampling heaps of materials and sampling materials after laying; this section includes a schedule of minimum sample quantities. Further experience has shown it to be necessary appreciably to increase the sizes of samples in certain tests; not only the sample selected but also the quantity used in a given test, e.g., the determination of soluble bitumen.

The funnel method of determining soluble binder is retained as the reference method for asphalt and the hot extractor method for tar macadam.

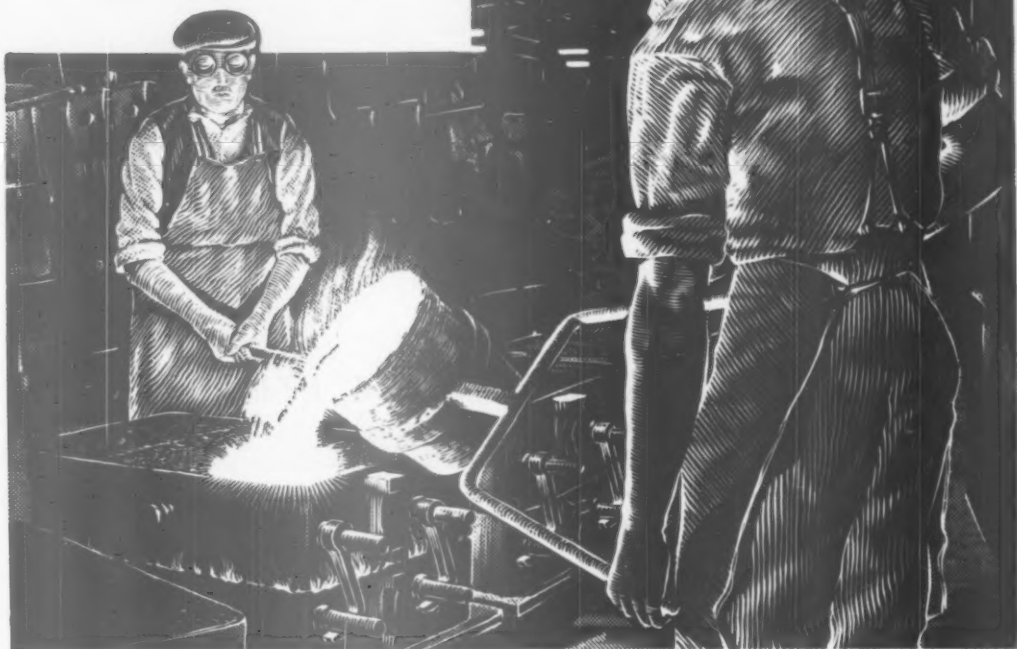
The Standard includes methods of examination for specific gravity and voids, soluble binder content, water content, and content of minerals aggregate. It also includes a method for the recovery of soluble bitumen and describes the pat stain test for use as a works method.

Copies of this standard may be obtained from the British Standards Institution, Sales Department, 24 Victoria Street, London, S.W.1, price 4s post free.



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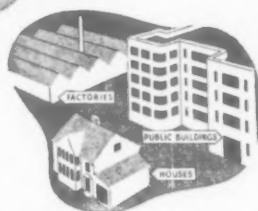
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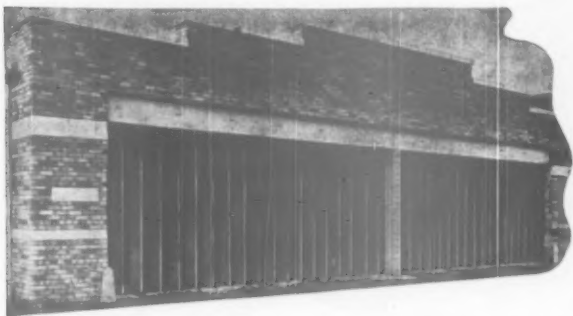
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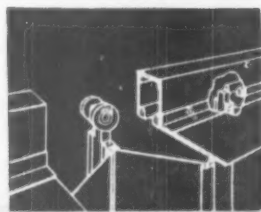
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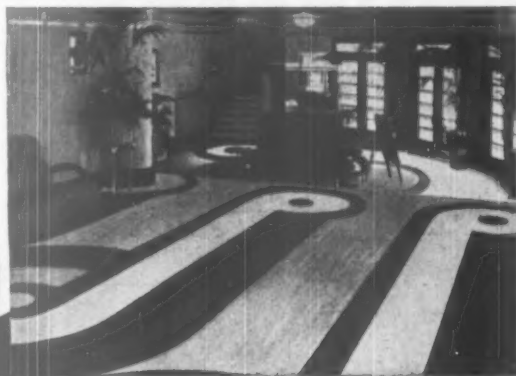
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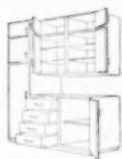
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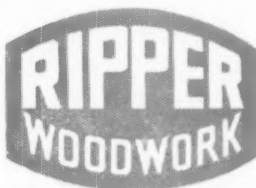
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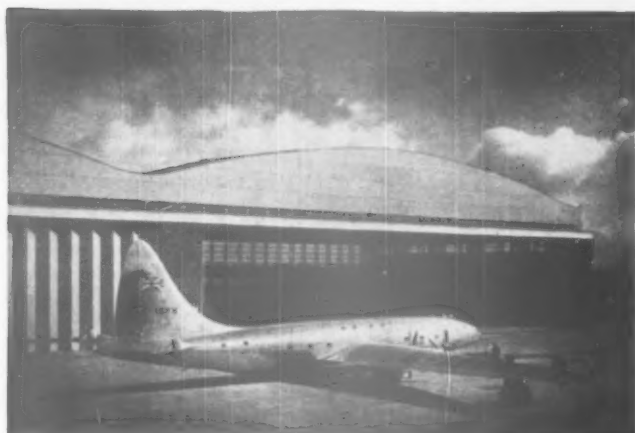
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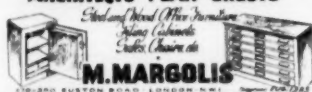
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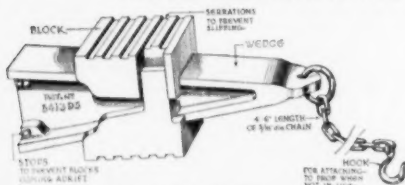
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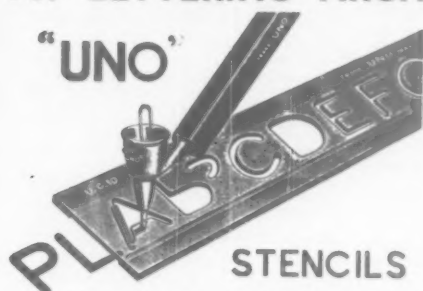
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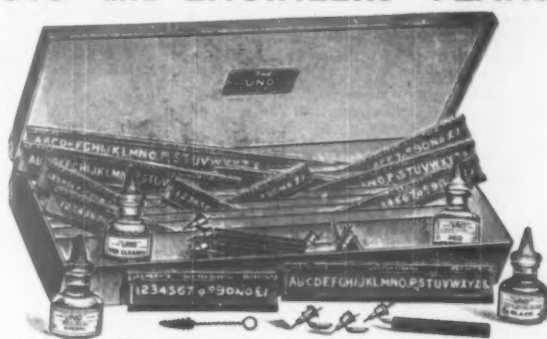
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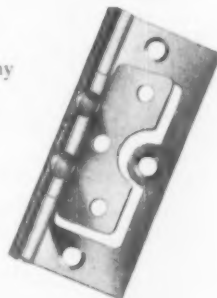
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Salary: Architectural Assistants £300-£525 per annum. Leading Architectural Assistants £500-£625 per annum. Starting pay will be assessed according to age, qualifications and experience. These rates are for London; a small deduction is made in the Provinces.

Although these are not established posts, some of them have long term possibilities and competitions are held periodically to fill established vacancies.

Appy in writing, stating age, nationality, full details of experience, and locality preferred, to Chief Architect, W.G.10/BC, Ministry of Works, Adelphi House, London, S.W.1, quoting reference W.G.10/BC. [4671]

BOROUGH OF HORNSEY.

ENGINEER AND SURVEYOR'S DEPARTMENT

APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following temporary appointment:—ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT, Grade V (A.P.T. Division of the National Scale) at a salary of £504-£570 per annum or Grade VI (A.P.T. Division of the National Scale) at a salary of £595-£660 per annum, plus London Weighting Allowance of £10 per annum in both instances. Grade according to experience.

Candidates should preferably be Associate Members of the Royal Institute of British Architects.

Applications, stating age, present and previous appointments, technical training, qualifications, experience, etc., together with the names of three referees, must be delivered to Mr. J. H. Melville Richards, A.M.I.C.E., M.I.Mun.E., Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Hornsey Town Hall, N.8, not later than the 15th September, 1950.

Candidates must disclose in writing whether, to their knowledge, they are related to any Member or Officer of the Council.

Canvassing, either directly or indirectly, will disqualify.

H. BEDALE, Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Hornsey, N.8.
28th August, 1950. [4787]

CROWN AGENTS FOR THE COLONIES.

QUANTITY SURVEYOR (Temporary) required by the Nyasaland Government for one tour of 2 to 3 years. Fixed salary according to qualifications and experience between £800 and £900 a year plus cost of living allowance up to £7 a year according to salary and dependants. Outfit allowance £30. Gratuity equal to 10 per cent. of total salary drawn on satisfactory completion of service. Free passages. Liberal leave on full salary. Candidates, preferably Associates of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and SINGLE, should have had experience in a Quantity Surveyor's Office in taking off and working up Bills of Quantities, preparing certificates for interim payments and settlement of contracts accounts for lump sum and prime cost contracts.—Apply at once by letter, stating age, full names in block letters, and full particulars of qualifications and experience and mentioning this paper, to the Crown Agents for the Colonies, 4 Millbank, London, S.W.1, quoting M/N/26627/1A on both letter and envelope. The Crown Agents cannot undertake to acknowledge all applications and will communicate only with applicants selected for further consideration. [4813]

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

APPLICATIONS are invited for positions of ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT (reserves up to £380 a year) in the Housing and Valuation Department. Commencing salaries will be determined according to qualifications and experience. Engagement will be subject to the Local Government Superannuation Act, and successful candidates will be eligible for consideration for appointment to the permanent staff on the occurrence of vacancies.

Successful candidates will be required to assist in the design, layout and preparation of working drawings for housing schemes (cottages and multi-story flats) and will be employed in the Housing Architect's Division.

Forms of application may be obtained from the Director of Housing, The County Hall, Westminster Bridge, S.E.1 (stamped addressed envelope required and quote reference A.A.1). Canvassing disqualifies. [816] [10101]

AIR MINISTRY have vacancies for DESIGNERS/DRAFTSMEN in the Design Branch of the Works Department for high class work in the following fields: Architecture, Drainage and Water Supply, Land Survey. The work includes designs for London Airport. Salaries are on ranges up to £750. Starting pay according to age and qualifications.—Applications, stating age, qualifications, previous appointments and salary required should be sent to Air Ministry, S.2(h), Cornwall House, London, S.E.1. It is requested that applications of candidates not called for interview cannot be acknowledged. [4753]

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of BUILDING SURVEYOR to take charge of property maintenance. Applicants should be qualified, capable of drawing up specifications, supervising decorations and repairs to showrooms, offices and dwelling houses. Salary Grade A.P.T. X, £600-£700 per annum.—Applications, stating age, qualifications and particulars of training and experience, should be addressed to the Divisional Engineer, Eastern Gas Board, Watford Division, Radiant House, Clarendon Road, Watford, Herts. [4780]

BOROUGH OF BEDDINGTON AND WALLINGTON.

APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of CHIEF ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT at a salary in accordance with A.P.T. Grades Va-VI of the National Scale (£550 a £20 + £25 - £660) plus London Weighting. Applicants should hold the qualification of the Final examination of the R.I.B.A. or its equivalent. Experience is required in municipal housing schemes, flats, adaptations, estimating and supervision of works.

The appointment is subject to the provisions of the National Scheme and to one month's notice on either side.

Housing accommodation will be provided for the successful candidate.

Forms of application, which make provision for supplying the names of two referees, may be obtained from me, and on completion should be sent in envelopes endorsed "Chief Architectural Assistant," to reach me not later than Thursday, 28th September, 1950.

Canvassing, directly or indirectly, will disqualify. A. B. BATEMAN, Town Clerk.
Town Hall, Wallington, Surrey.
8th September, 1950. [4791]

METROPOLITAN BOROUGH OF ISLINGTON.

HOUSING DEPARTMENT.

APPLICATIONS are invited from suitably qualified persons for the following appointments. The salaries quoted are exclusive of "London Weighting" of £20 or £30 according to age:—

BUILDING SURVEYOR, Grade A.P.T. IV £480 x £15 - £525 p.a.
CLERK OF WORKS, Grade A.P.T. I £390 x £15 - £435 p.a.

Forms of application and further particulars may be obtained from the Housing Manager, Housing Department, 220/225 Upper Street, Islington, N.1 (enclosing stamped and addressed foolscap envelope), to whom applications should be submitted by the 29th September, 1950.

H. DIXON CLARK, Town Clerk.

Town Hall, Upper Street, Islington, N.1.
September, 1950. [4806]

INLAND REVENUE—VALUATION OFFICE.
LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1948.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments:—

(1) TEMPORARY ESTIMATORS (Rating). Salary £400-£550 p.a. according to age, experience and qualifications. Estimators are required to assist in the survey and costing of post-1918 dwelling-houses. Some experience of building construction is essential and a knowledge of building trade prices will be an advantage.

(2) REFERENCERS (Rating). Salary £200-£450 p.a., according to age and experience. Referencers are required to measure land and buildings, compute areas and cubic contents of buildings, etc. Previous experience of similar work is necessary.

The posts, although unestablished, have long-term possibilities and, from time to time, competitions are held for recruitment to established posts.

There are vacancies in practically all parts of England and Wales. The salaries quoted are London scales and are subject to provincial differentiation for officers serving outside London.

Write (quoting J 241 B/50 and appropriate Post No.) to Ministry of Labour and National Service, Technical and Scientific Register (K), York House, Kingsway, London, W.C.2, for application form. [4801]

LONDON COUNTY COUNCIL.

ARCHITECT'S DEPARTMENT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for positions of ARCHITECT, Grade III (£250-£300) and TECHNICAL ASSISTANT (up to £380) for work on new housing schools and other public buildings. The positions are supernumerary. Candidates for Grade III positions should possess professional qualifications.—Application forms from the Architect (AR/P.5), The County Hall, Westminster bridge, S.E.1, enclosing stamped addressed foolscap envelope. Canvassing disqualifies. [346] [10997]

WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL.

APPOINTMENT OF DEPUTY COUNTY ARCHITECT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for this appointment at a salary of £1,050 per annum, rising by three increments of £50 to £1,200.

Applicants must be suitably qualified and in particular must have had professional and administrative experience in Local Government Service and a good knowledge of contemporary school design and construction.

The applicant will be required to provide a car. Travelling and subsistence allowances will be paid in accordance with the County Council's Scale.

Temporary housing accommodation will be available if needed.

Applications, on forms to be obtained from L. C. Lomas, F.R.I.B.A., County Architect, 14 Castle Street, Worcester, must be returned to him on or before 30th September, 1950.

W. R. SCURFIELD,

Clerk of the County Council.

Shirehall, Worcester (K103). [4807]

THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSIONERS give notice of a Supplementary Reconstruction Competition for pensionable appointments as DRAFTSMEN, (a) Architectural and Civil Engineering, and (b) Mechanical and Electrical Engineering.

Applications will be accepted at any time up to 30th December, 1950, and selected candidates will be interviewed as soon as possible after the receipt of their application forms.

Candidates must have been born on or after 2nd August, 1905, and on or before 1st August, 1928, with extension for regular service in H.M. Forces. They must have obtained by 10th December, 1950, the Ordinary National Certificate or equivalent qualification, but for post of Architectural Draftsman candidates without such qualification may be admitted exceptionally on evidence of training to an equivalent standard. Candidates must also have three years' practical experience including one year in a Drawing Office. Opportunities for promotion.

Regulations and application forms from Civil Service Commission, Scientific Branch, Trinidad House, Old Burlington Street, London, W.1, quoting No. 3219. [4812]

CITY OF BIRMINGHAM EDUCATION
COMMITTEE.APPOINTMENT OF STAFF TO ARCHITECT'S
BRANCH.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the following appointments in the Architect's Branch of the Birmingham Education Department (Architect to the Committee: Mr. Alex. Steele, A.R.I.B.A.).

(a) DISTRICT ARCHITECT. Salary: A.P.T. IX (£750 + £50 + £900).

The successful candidate will be responsible for various matters affecting the provision of new buildings in one of the four sectors of the city, together with work in connection with extensions, adaptations, improvements and repairs to existing buildings. Applicants should be registered or Chartered Architects having good experience in the control of major contracts.

(b) SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS. Salary: A.P.T. VIII (£685 + £25 + £760).

Applicants must be registered or Chartered Architects and must offer evidence of high ability and initiative in design.

(c) SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECT. Salary: A.P.T. VII (£635 + £25 + £710).

(d) SENIOR ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS. Salary: A.P.T. VI (£595 + £600).

(e) ASSISTANT ARCHITECTS. Salary: A.P.T. V (£520 + £570).

Applicants for posts (c), (d) and (e) must be registered or Chartered Architects and should have had good general experience in the preparation of schemes and working drawings for educational buildings.

(f) ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS. Salary: A.P.T. IV (£480 + £525).

Applicants should have reached the R.I.B.A. Intermediate standard and should be capable of preparing working details for major contracts.

(g) ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANTS. Salary: A.P.T. III (£450 + £495).

Applicants should have reached the R.I.B.A. Intermediate standard and will be expected to prepare working drawings and details under supervision.

(h) DRAUGHTSMEN. Salary: Miscellaneous Grade IV (£360 + £15 + £420).

Applicants should have had good experience as Architectural or Fittings Draughtsmen and will be required to prepare working drawings for major contracts of this type under supervision.

Application forms, which may be obtained from the undersigned on receipt of stamped, addressed envelope, must be returned not later than 30th September.

E. L. RUSSELL, Chief Education Officer,
Margaret Street, Birmingham, 3. [4803]

COUNTY OF CORNWALL.

APPOINTMENT OF BUILDING SURVEYOR.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of a BUILDING SURVEYOR on the established staff of the County Architect's Department on a salary scale of £450 + £15 + £525.

Applicants should possess sound practical experience of all building trades and be thoroughly competent to prepare plans for small extensions to existing buildings, surveys, etc. They should also be qualified to prepare specifications, detailed estimates and reports, and to supervise improvements and repairs to existing buildings. Preference will be given to those who have held similar appointments with drawing office experience.

The successful candidate will be required to provide a car, for the use of which a travelling allowance in accordance with the Council's scale will be paid, and he will have to reside in the Penzance district.

The appointment is subject to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937, and the successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination. Canvassing, either directly or indirectly, will be disqualifying.

The County Council are unable to assist in obtaining housing accommodation.

Applications, stating age, qualifications, general experience and drawing office experience, accompanied by a copy of one recent testimonial and the names of two referees, should be received by the County Architect, County Hall, Truro, not later than Saturday, 23rd September, 1950.

F. T. VERGER, Clerk of the County Council,
County Hall, Truro.
6th September, 1950. [4816]

BOROUGH OF CHIPPENHAM.

APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL
ASSISTANT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the appointment of ARCHITECTURAL ASSISTANT in the Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer's Department at a salary in accordance with the National Scheme of Conditions of Service for Local Government Officers, that is, A.P.T. Grades III to V, according to professional qualifications. The appointment will be subject to the above conditions and to the provisions of the Local Government Superannuation Act, 1937. The successful candidate will be required to pass a medical examination.

Candidates with experience in connection with Municipal Housing Works and other Public Buildings will be given preference.

Applications, in envelopes endorsed "Architectural Assistant," stating age, qualifications, experience, and accompanied by the names of three persons to whom reference can be made, must be received by C. R. Phillips, Borough Surveyor and Water Engineer, not later than Saturday, 30th September, 1950.

J. F. A. CLARKE, Town Clerk,
The Old Palace,
10 Market Place, Chippenham, Wilts.
7th September, 1950. [4815]

BOROUGH OF MITCHAM.

BOROUGH ENGINEER & SURVEYOR'S
DEPARTMENT.APPOINTMENT OF ARCHITECTURAL
ASSISTANT.

APPLICATIONS are invited for the above appointment in the Borough Engineer and Surveyor's Department of the Corporation of Mitcham. The appointment will be within Grades III or IV (A.P.T. Division) of the National Scale of Salaries, namely, between £450 and £495 per annum or between £480 and £525 per annum, dependent upon the qualifications and experience of the candidate, plus London "weighting."

Particulars and the form in which applications are to be submitted, may be obtained from the Borough Engineer and Surveyor, Town Hall, Mitcham, Surrey, to whom applications should be addressed, endorsed "Architectural Assistant." The latest date for the receipt of applications is 14th October, 1950.

R. H. WHITE, Town Clerk,
Town Hall, Mitcham.
12th September, 1950. [4817]

ARCHITECTURAL APPOINTMENTS
VACANT

ASSISTANT Architect required, Salary £550 to £750 according to qualifications.—Crofton Dalzell, A.M.I.S.E., Architect and Quantity Surveyor, Coleraine, Northern Ireland. [4795]

ARCHITECTURAL Assistants with experience in steel framed buildings required to work on large Government office building. Senior and lower graded Assistants will be selected on ability and experience rather than salary required.—Write, stating age, experience and salary, to Louis de Soisson, A.R.A. & Partners, 3 Park Square Mews, London, N.W.1. [4796]

HENING & CHITTY, F.R.I.B.A., invite application by experienced Assistant (salary £750 to £850).—Write details, 20 Gower Street, W.C.1. [4784]

REQUIRED at once, competent Junior Architectural Assistant. Good draughtsman working drawings and details. Good salary paid. West Lancashire area. Private practice.—Write with details, Box 6121, The Architect and Building News. [4808]

SENIOR Architect and Assistant Architects required for Prefabricated Housing Division of firm of Consulting Engineers in London. Senior experience must include sound practical knowledge of timber structures, procurement of materials and fittings, administrative ability to take charge of London office staff and factory staffs Britain and the Continent in the capacity of Manager. Assistant Architects must possess sound knowledge of prefabricated construction and to work on new designs, prototypes, and some administrative work. Qualified men preferred.—Write, stating experience, age and salary required. Box No. 87, c/o Dawson, 129 Cannon Street, E.C.4. [4814]

SITUATIONS VACANT

ARCHITECTURAL Metal Workers require a Designer-Draughtsman of considerable merit. Top salaried position for skilled man.—Apply The Morris Singer Company, Hope House, Gt. Peter Street, Westminster, S.W.1. [10095]

CHIEF ARCHITECTURAL DRAUGHTSMAN required to take charge of Chief Staff Architect's Drawing Office at Havering, near Romford. Sound knowledge of industrial building construction is essential. Five-day working week and pension scheme are in operation. Staff canteen.—Applications, stating age, experience and salary required, to Chief Staff Architect, Ilford Limited, Romford, Essex. [4785]

EXPERIENCED Quantity Surveyor, R.I.C.S. Final standard required for head of Quantity Surveying Department. Salary £700 to £1,000 according to qualifications.—Crofton Dalzell, A.M.I.S.E., Quantity Surveyor, Coleraine, Northern Ireland. [4794]

JUNIOR Structural Draughtsmen (two) for Victoria Street offices.—Write in first instance only, giving age, full experience and salary required, to Sharnan, The Parade, Sunbury-on-Thames. [4805]

STRUCTURAL Engineer as London Manager for Victoria Street offices. Must be fully conversant technically to supervise designing staff, etc.—Write in first instance only, giving age, full experience and salary required, to Sharnan, The Parade, Sunbury-on-Thames. [4804]

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Prospectus put free on application.
Telephone North 1646. [4769]

INTERMEDIATE R.I.B.A. EXAMINATION.

EVENING COURSE for students wishing to take the above examination is being held at the BROMLEY COLLEGE OF ART.—Applications for admission to this course should be made to the Principal as soon as possible. [4811]

SERVICES OFFERED

STUDIO Seven. Commissions undertaken for Architectural Models, Rendered Drawings, Perspectives, and Hand-out Stencils. We invite your inquiries.—Write c/o Mr. Pybus, 1 Lovaine Terrace, Newcastle-upon-Tyne. [4788]

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SCHOLARSHIPS

CANDIDATES wishing to enter for the Rome Scholarship in Architecture 1951 are reminded that applications for admission to the competition must be submitted before October 16th, 1950, to the Hon. General Secretary, British School at Rome, 1 Lowther Gardens, Exhibition Road, London, S.W.7. [4810]

FOR SALE

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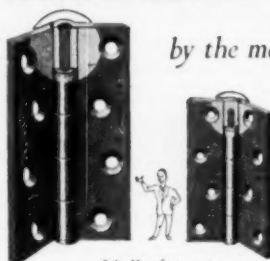


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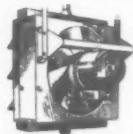
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